



# LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CIX EST. 1906 La Palma, California December 2015 Number 4 [www.orderofruneberg.org](http://www.orderofruneberg.org)

## Order of Runeberg Message

### History of our Lodges

**T**he front page article in the June 2015 issue of this publication, written by Annabelle Kergan, described the March 28, 2015, Vancouver Lodge celebration in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Order of Runeberg, Lodge #124, Vancouver, British Columbia, and sparked my interest in learning more about the history of the lodges – hint: they all date back a very long time.

All the information summarized below came from the book titled *Memorabilia/Minneskrift, of the International Order of Runeberg 1898–1968 In Words and Pictures Seventy years of Social and Cultural Development*. There are numerous copies of *Memorabilia* within the lodges. If you do not have access to a copy of the book, it is available from our website at: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/aboutusmemorabilia18981968.html>

This web page provides:

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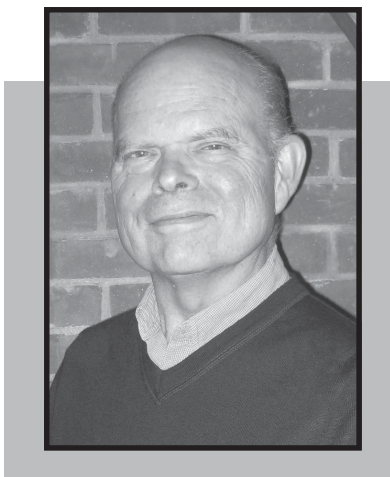
The entire 199 page book, in 4 pdf files (5 MB each):

Pages 1–53 pdf file 1

Pages 54–102 pdf file 2

Pages 103–150 pdf file 3

Pages 151–199 pdf file 4



I suggest first looking at the Table of Contents, to determine subject or lodge of interest, note its page number, then select the respective pdf file to view, and or print.

Below is a short summary of the founding early days of our lodges. The *Memorabilia* book provides rich additional details on the current lodges, and on 59 active lodges in 1968, when *Memorabilia* was published. The

lodges below are listed in numerical order by lodge number.

### Lodge #8, Dollar Bay, MI

Lodge #8 is on *Memorabilia* page 54 in pdf file 2.

The temperance society “Nordstjarnan” (The North Star) was organized in 1899, and a rival society, “Templars of Temperance”, came into being the following year. The 2 societies united in 1902 as “Syskonringer,” and built a hall. In 1903 a benefit society “Enighet” (Unity) was organized. In 1920 these 3 societies merged into Lodge #8 Order of Runeberg.

### Lodge #102, Eureka, CA

Lodge #102 is on *Memorabilia* page 103 in pdf file 3.

“The Temperance Club” was started in 1896, building its own hall. In 1903 another temper-

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## Problems

Many of us are using computers these days whether on an infrequent basis or much of the time. We are the latter, and we depend on our computer for putting the *Leading Star* together and getting the mailing labels processed. Due to some changes (software), the *Leading Star* was done on our new computer, and the mailing labels on the old computer.

As we were getting ready to mail the September paper, the old computer with the labels failed to work. Computer users are always reminded to back up their work. Initially, we thought we didn't have any backup at all. We tried some tricks that might temporarily get the computer working but had no luck. Fortunately, I discovered that I had forgotten about a backup I started almost a year earlier. It

was not completely up to date, but I was able to fill most of the holes and get the paper out in November. That put us behind for the December paper along with the holidays.

We wanted you to know what happened and are sorry for this delay. We are backed up now and anticipate all going smoothly with future issues of the paper.

Remember to help us out by sending us news items about your lodges, families, and communities.

—DH

## Finland considering universal basic income

Finland could become the first country to introduce a universal basic income.

An official at the Finnish Social Insurance Institution, known as KELA, said last week

that each Finn could receive €800 (\$1218) a month, tax free, that would replace existing benefits. Full implementation would be preceded by a pilot stage, during which the basic income payout would be 550 euros and some benefits would remain.

KELA will present a proposal by November next year, but for now the idea sounds unrealistic. Finland has one of the European Union's shakier economies. It has been in recession almost continually since mid-2012 and lacks growth opportunities. The traditionally strong pulp and paper industry is in decline and the tech sector hasn't lived up to expectations after Nokia lost its place as the mobile-phone market leader.

*The Finnish  
American Reporter  
December 2015*



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To correct our listing of your address, fill in the requested information in the form to the right and send your old mailing label to:

***The Leading Star*** is published quarterly by the  
Order of Runeberg for its members and others interested in the  
Order at 7682 Tracy Lane, La Palma, California 90623-1501.

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

# Message

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ance society, "Stjarnan av Vasa" was organized, and also built its own hall. In 1908 these societies united and one hall was sold. The same year the benefit society "Swanen" was founded. Stjarnan and Swanen merged into Lodge #102 Order of Runeberg.

## Lodge #105, Butte, MT

Although Lodge #105 recently disbanded, the lodge is included in this article.

Lodge #105 is on *Memorabilia* page 114 in pdf file 3.

The benefit society "Stjarnan av Butte" was organized in 1904 and the temperance society "Livets Allvar" followed in 1906. The temperance society built a 2-story hall. In 1920 these societies merged into Lodge #105 Order of Runeberg.

## Lodge #106 Tacoma, WA

Lodge #106 is on *Memorabilia* page 117 in pdf file 3.

The temperance society Mt. Tacoma No. 61 organized in 1908. The sick benefit society, "Hemmets Stod," organized in 1910. In 1920 they merged into Lodge #106 Order of Runeberg. The 1<sup>st</sup> delegate convention of the Order of Runeberg was held in Tacoma in 1922. The singing society "Norden", later changed to "Finlandia," was organized in 1913. Tacoma was the leader in planning the successful Runeberg concert tour to Finland in 1930. This tour opened new vistas of understanding between Order of Runeberg and Swedes in Finland.

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

Lodge #124 is on *Memorabilia* page 144 in pdf file 3.

As mentioned earlier, it was Vancouver's March 28th 90th Anniversary celebration, which drew my interest in writing this article, so it will come as no surprise that Lodge #124 Order of Runeberg was organized in 1925. A fascinating fact mentioned in the *Memorabilia* book: As Thursday was "Maids day off" meetings were held for several years on Thursdays. It was the Vancouver lodge that did an excellent job of organizing and hosting the final 2014 convention of the International Order of Runeberg — <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/convention2014pictures.html> Currently, Vancouver lodge has the largest membership with 55 adults.

## Lodge #126, North Bend Coos Bay, OR

Lodge #126 is on *Memorabilia* page 157 in pdf file 3.

The lodge had several antecedents. The benefit society "Suomi" organized in 1894. Two years later, a small society, Knights of Finland, was formed to build a hall. In 1908 Suomi bought the hall and the 2 societies united. As Suomi was for men only, the women organized a society, called "Martha" in 1912. In 1923 the "Midnight Sun Club" was organized. These 3 societies united in 1928 to form Lodge #126 Order of Runeberg.

## Lodge #205, New Haven, CT

Lodge #205 is on *Memorabilia* page 179 in pdf file 4.

The benefit society "Myran" was founded in 1912. In 1920 the society became Lodge #205 Order of Runeberg. In 1940 the lodge participated in the "Finnish Relief Fund" initiated by former United States President Herbert Hoover in December 1939, to support Finnish civilians during the Winter War. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish\\_Relief\\_Fund](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish_Relief_Fund). The lodge was cited by Hoover for a job well done.

## Finlandia Order of Runeberg, Vasa, Finland

Finlandia Order of Runeberg is on *Memorabilia* page 191 in pdf file 4.

When the "Amerika Chorus", representing the Swedish Song and Music Association in Finland, returned from its highly successful tour through America in the summer of 1960 under the auspices of the Order of Runeberg, the president of the Association, Evert Ekroth, suggested that a lodge of that Order be organized in Finland, with the purpose of strengthening ties between the Finland-Swedish immigrants and their descendents in America and the land of their forebears. The idea won enthusiastic approval by chorus members, and the lodge Finlandia was organized in January, 1961. The lodge was duly registered in Finland and became affiliated under

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# Genealogy Corner

## Comparison of Different Construction Cultures

I had already dreamed of visiting America during my study time 40 years ago. Now I am retired and have a son Peter who spent 4 summers in that country, and can speak the language. To write about the trip I have to go back 10 years.

As an active master builder I did the drawing and planning work of a builder. One day an American, Per Kronquist with his brother Carl-Gustav from Pörtom, came into my office in Yttermark. He needed a drawing of his farm home that he intended to renovate. My son Peter, who then was attending trade school, came home from school and sat in my office.

When I heard that Per did the same sort of work that I did, I began to discuss with him what was required in America to be a builder. My son Peter listened attentively to our talk. In the fall he entered trade school to become a master builder. There he learned that he had a chance to use his foreign language via an organization Cimo in Helsingfors. When he came home over the weekend, he said to me: "Pappa, can you call this



**June Pelo**  
A Dedicated Genealogist

Kronquist in America and ask him if I can work for him next summer." They got along so well that it was four summers that he spent in America. He also sought to have a permanent work permit after he became a master builder, but it was only for a few months. So he gave up and now lives in Sweden where he has his own building firm in Stockholm.

### The Trip to America

Since I had worked a lot with local TV, my little video camera was the first thing I packed. I started my journey by flying from Vasa to Stockholm. After an hour in Stockholm, I went to Arlanda airport. There I met my son Peter and we began our trip to America. After a nearly 9-hour flight we landed in Newark, NJ. From the airport where we met Ricky, we drove to Wilton, Conn., where Per Kronquist lived. We would stay there with him.

One can nearly become lyrical when I describe my observations and experiences in America. Everything was so large and powerful. There is nothing of these proportions in Närpes, Finland.

Everyone we visited invited us to visit them. They were so friendly to us and we were well treated. Because of lack of time, we couldn't visit all of them.

During my visit to the working site, I met many people from home that I haven't seen in 30 years, such as Tore Lillbåsk from Rangsby, Bengt Granskog from Nornäs and Bror Erik Granskog from Böle. We also visited where the very wealthy live. Kronquist had contacts there so we slipped past the guard. I have seen luxurious houses in Stockholm, but these here took the record. Many houses had their own movie theater and a large picture TV. It was mostly business people who lived in them. Many of them were in the marble business. I didn't think they would have it so easy all the time with the drop in prices at the stock market.

We also visited several building warehouses. I can say that building material is significantly 30–50% cheaper than in Finland. Concrete is 50% cheaper in the US than in Finland. One thing that surprised me was that all the nails were round that are used here. In Finland all the nails are square – only those used in nail guns are round.

I also think that the carpentry used in windows and doors is of high quality. They were also much more decorative than at home. A good example is that a window could be ordered with outer trim already assembled. Various outer trim is standard which explains why your houses are so decorative and beautiful, compared with houses we build in Finland. There they are more simple and modest.

I did not notice any unit building in Connecticut. That sort of building is very common in Finland. Unit building means all the houses are exactly alike. You have more variation in the shape of houses. The large American Angle with numbers is unknown to us. My son visited 4 summers in the US so he can use this American Angle. I was struck with admiration when he demonstrated it for me the first time several years ago. I'm not aware of the possibilities to be found through the use of this. It should be in the trade school study program where they teach tomorrow's builders how it should be used. They would then be more effective in their work and unit manufacturers would have it difficult to compete with them. Local builders would once again be more common.

Christer Krook, who is from Kalax in Närpes, drove us around and showed us many exclusive houses. He had a home on the Atlantic with a fantastic view of the sea. He also took us to a stone business where they produced marble slabs, wash bowls, water closet stools, bathubs in marble.

Slabs for kitchen sinks were also in marble. It is the well-to-do who have the means for such luxury. He showed us several impressive houses he had built during his time in America.

We went to a party at the Scandinavian Club which was a great success. Here we met many emigrants, for example Hjalmar Granskog whom I visited the day before. He works at violin making as a retiree. During the years he has made 132 violins. We also met Bjarne Grannas from Sideby, Rolf Granskog and wife, and Stanley Bjurbäck and wife. The orchestra, Atwood Express, played 50–60 numbers for dancing, but it was a little different music than we were used to at home at that time. The Scandinavian Club began with Nordic emigrants. Membership has decreased because no new emigrants have come from Scandinavia.

### **An Entire Day in New York**

When one visits America it is a must to see New York. We took the train from Connecticut to the center of New York City. The train went under the river, under all of Manhattan. To see everything one would need an entire year, the city is so large. There are 8 million people in the city. We rode the red tourist buses around. We went on our first stop to the Empire State Building. It's an impressive skyscraper that was built in 1931. It was over 100 stories high. There were long lines of people waiting, and also safety regulations. After 1 1/2 hours we were up in the skyscraper. The

view from the top was enormous and we saw all of New York. I was very impressed by the city and the sights.

From the Empire State Building we continued to tour New York. I was impressed by the very tall buildings and how beautiful they were. Then we drove to Central Park, the world's largest man-made city park that is estimated to be a masterpiece of engineering. It had a beautiful waterfall and pools with running water.

The next stop in our tour was by boat around the harbor. No one had forgotten 11 September when the airplanes flew into the twin towers. When we at last went onboard, we saw the Statue of Liberty, a symbol for New York. It was what the emigrants first saw when they arrived in America by boat – a symbol of freedom in the new land. We went to the Emigrant Museum on Ellis Island. Over 12 million emigrants passed through there – about 5,000 per day. In 1954 the borders were closed for free emigration and Ellis Island was closed for emigrants. Visas and work permits must be arranged for by the American ambassador in the respective countries.

It is an amazing museum. An entire day is needed to see it all. The names of most who passed through are found there. There is data that can be used for family research. We looked for and found our forefathers. A large globe with a lighted arrow pointed to where the emigrants came from and where they

*continued on page 15*



## LODGE NEWS



### Lodge #205 New Haven, Connecticut

## Annual "Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner"

On October 24th, members and friends of Lodge #205 enjoyed our annual "Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner" hosted by Doug Davie and Liisa Lindholm.

We started by hiking 3 miles (1-1/2 miles up, then down, with 739-ft. elevation change), then drove to Doug and Liisa's beautiful new home, where everyone was ready for the potluck dinner! The appetizers, main dishes, salads and desserts provided by our hosts and members were all delicious.

We had some new people at our Fall Hike & Potluck Dinner event: Kimmo Piironen joined us for the hike and the Stickevers family (John, Annika and Daniel) joined us for the hike and dinner. Kimmo also submitted application via the website to join our lodge. To appreciate the Fall New England foliage colors, the pictures accompanying this article may be viewed in color on our Runeberg website at the following link: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/l205fallhike15.html>

For members, friends, and persons / families interested in Finnish &/or Swedish-Speaking Finnish Culture & Traditions living within driving distance to our New Haven area Lodge #205 meetings, you are invited to join us for our next event – "Bowling and Pizza," scheduled for Sunday, January 31, 2016. Event details and contact information are at: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/lodges/l205newhavenct.html>

**Stew Lyons**



*L-R: Stew, Kaarina, Inke, Kimmo, Doug, Roy, Liisa & Annika*

*Above photo documents that we made it to the top of Sleeping Giant Park's 1-1/2 mile long trail climb (739 ft. high). Also hiked to top, & not in photo: John & Daniel Stickevers.*





*Fall foliage view from the hiking trail*  
Photo by Inke



*Kimmo Piironen with the Fall foliage in the background*  
Photo by Inke



*Fall foliage view from a Lookout Tower window. Photo by Inke*



*L-R: Stew, Kaarina, Inke, Roy, Annika, Doug & Liisa. At top level in Lookout Tower - note the window view of the Fall foliage*



*Clockwise from left: Kaarina, Peter, Doug, Klas, Dottie & Annika. Behind the sofa: John & Daniel. Everyone is enjoying the potluck dinner.*



*Everyone contributed to the dinner: delicious appetizers, cheeses, breads directly from Finland, various entrees, salads & desserts!*



# Ban Ki-moon: UN needs countries like Finland

In honor of Finland's 60th anniversary of membership in the United Nations, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed a packed Finlandia Hall in Helsinki on Wednesday morning and said that the UN is grateful for Finland's staunch support.

This year marks Finland's 60th anniversary in the UN, and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon marked the milestone with a two-day visit that began on Wednesday.

Ban addressed a crowd of about 1,400 people, including Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, Prime Minister Juha Sipilä, Foreign Minister Timo Soini, Speaker of the Parliament Maria Lohela, former Presidents Martti Ahtisaari and Tarja Halonen, among other diplomats, politicians and leaders.

As this was a celebratory affair, Ban's speech was congratulatory and appreciative of the contribution Finland has made over the decades.

"The United Nations is grateful for Finland's staunchest support for disarmament, conflict prevention, peacekeeping and education," Ban said, noting the diplomatic and negotiation work that he had done together with the Nobel Peace Prize winner and former Finnish President Ahtisaari in various regions of the world.

## Finland's peacekeeping, mediation lauded

"This Finnish practice of dialogue and mediation has contributed to peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo and Namibia. When I visited Namibia last year, I saw a very proud history of their independence, led and assisted by President Ahtisaari as a special representative," Ban said.

"Finland brings great expertise as co-chair of Group of Friends of Mediation. This country helped to steer the adoption of the groundbreaking arms trade treaty. Finnish soldiers have served as UN Blue Helmets since 1956."

"I pay tribute to the memory of 45 brave men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of peace and security of the world. I was deeply grateful for more than 300 Finnish peacekeepers who are being deployed in many areas," he said.

"This country has a vibrant, civil society with groups that are making a mark—like the Crisis Management Initiative and the Finn Church Aid. I thank all those Finns who have contributed to the United Nations Association of Finland fundraising drive for Syrian refugees. I hope that all people can follow this example of showing solidarity," Ban said.

## Diplomat's dismay with UNSC process

Before Ban began his speech, there was a panel discussion with former Finnish Ambassadors to the UN Klaus Törnudd and Marjatta Rasi, who discussed their decades of service.

When asked what the most memorable moment during their careers in the UN was, Törnudd said he recalled the two times that Finland applied for membership of the UN Security Council — once successfully in 1988 and a second time in 2012, when Finland was not elected.

During one of the few moments of the event that appeared to be unscripted, Rasi took the opportunity to speak up and voiced disappointment about the difficulties that smaller countries have in gaining access to the UNSC.

## "There's always next time."

Towards the end of his speech, Ban noted Rasi's disappointment.

"Just responding to what our distinguished former ambassadors were saying about their little bit of a sour experience of running for the Security Council. I also felt very sorry three years ago. There's always competition, but there's always — what do you say — next time."

Ban said that during the country's tenure on the Security Council, as well as afterwards, Finland has provided diplomatic guidance for many members of the UN and that other opportunities to serve on the council would come.

Finland's 60th anniversary coincides with the 70th anniversary of the UN, and Ban said he



was trying to modernize UN operations.

Throughout his 26-minute speech Ban also spoke about issues the UN and the world at large is faced with, including women's rights, the refugee crisis, and climate change.

### Inspired by *sisu*

He borrowed a Finnish word, *sisu*, which roughly translates to perseverance, to get his message of unity across to the audience.

"I'm doing everything possible to modernize our operations, so that the United Nations can best solve the world's problems. With all the problems we face I'm inspired by a Finnish word I learned: *Sisu*," Ban said to bemusement from the crowd.

"Although it may be very difficult to translate to English, I understand that it means resolve, determination, a sense of resilience, and courage in the face of difficulty. This is what we need at this time. We may be living an era of peril, challenge, and conflict but we're also living in an era of promise, and hope. With this *sisu*, the United Nations and Finland can work together with this spirit of *sisu* to rise to the moment in history," Ban said.

Towards the end of the three-hour event, during his closing comments, Finnish Foreign Minister Timo Soini announced that Finland will vie for a spot on the UN Human Rights Council for the years 2022–24.

### Ban to visit refugee reception centre

After the Finlandia Hall event, Ban was scheduled to visit the Presidential Palace and then later visit a refugee reception centre with Minister of the Interior Petteri Orpo.

Discussion topics with President Niinistö include the crises in the Middle East and Africa, particularly the civil war in Syria, the Ukrainian crisis, international migration and the refugee crisis, COP21 Climate Conference, sustainable development and the UN Agenda 2030.

Finland became a member of the UN on December 14, 1955.

From the internet: <http://yle.fi/uutiset>

## Finns Eat too Much Protein

The protein intake of Finns is close to the upper limit of dietary guidelines. Protein is found especially in meat and dairy products.

Red meat, in particular, is consumed considerably more than the amount recommended by national health authorities. Fewer than three meals with red meat in a week would suffice, according to a new set of dietary recommendations that is being circulated for comments.

The new guidelines call attention to the benefits of beans, soy, and tofu and encourage Finns to cut back on red meat. Lettuce and grated vegetables alone, they point out, are not enough and should be supplemented with warm vegetable meals.

Children today consume no more than half of the recommended amount of vegetables.

"Children's intake of vegetables is rather modest as well as narrow. Families eat the same old vegetables, such as tomatoes, cucumber, and carrots. Increasing the number of warm vegetable meals would be an improvement. Beans, soy, and tofu are examples of ingredients that would make children's diet more diverse and healthy," says Arja Lyytikäinen, the secretary general at the National Nutritional Council.

The new guidelines warn children against the excessive intake of protein. Children are especially at risk of getting too much protein if high-protein milks and quarks are consumed in the family as parents preoccupi-

pied with their protein intake can feed high-protein products also to their children, which is not only unnecessary but harmful, according to the recommendations.

An excessive intake of protein appears to be linked with childhood overweight. In addition, it puts a strain on the kidneys and increases the risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

The protein intake of children increases sharply roughly at the age of one as instead of breast milk or breast-milk substitutes they start drinking cow's milk, which contains considerably more protein than breast milk.

"The amount of protein in the diet increases naturally roughly at the age of one as children start eating the same meals as the rest of the family. That's another reason why protein supplements aren't recommended to children. Regular dairy products would do just fine.

Children also get a lot of protein from cold cuts, the consumption of which could be reduced," Lyytikäinen says.

She points out that minced meat, which remains popular among families with children, is not a bad choice for a weekday meal, if it is low in fat.

# Finnish-American Sisunautti Returns to Space

Finnish-American astronaut Timothy Kopra returns to space in mid-December. Kopra completed his first space flight in 2009, and is now returning to the International Space Station bringing with him greetings from Finland for the second time. President Sauli Niinistö has given Kopra a Jean Sibelius commemorative medal to take to the ISS. The expedition launch is scheduled for December 15, 2015.

In 2009, during his previous space flight Kopra took a Finnish Kalevala medal to the International Space Station. The medal was given to him by President Tarja Halonen, and the two also discussed on phone for 13 minutes while Kopra was in space.

During the phone call President Halonen invited Kopra to visit Finland, and the two met in Helsinki in July 2010. At the meeting Kopra expressed that he is a “Finn at heart” and stated that the International Space Station exemplifies what can be accomplished through collaboration between nations.

Kopra began his career at NASA in 1998. He was first assigned to NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, as a vehicle integration test engineer. He started an intensive training to become an astronaut in 2000.

In September 2006, Kopra served with a six-person crew aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Aquarius underwater laboratory as part of NASA Extreme Environment Mission Operations 11. During the week-long mission that served as an analog for lunar operations, the crew tested space suit design concepts, communication protocols, construction techniques, and the use of robotic devices.

Kopra served as a backup crew member to Expeditions 16 and 17, and then in 2009 as prime crew member for Expedition 20 working as a flight engineer aboard the International Space Station. During his first space flight he spent two months in space and completed one spacewalk totaling 5 hours and 32 minutes.

Kopra is scheduled to return to space in December 2015. He is assigned as a flight engineer to Expedition 46 and Commander for Expedition 47.

Kopra’s grandfather immigrated from Valkjärvi, Karelia, to the U.S. in 1910. Kopra has said that he is very proud of his Finnish roots, and he has visited Finland twice.

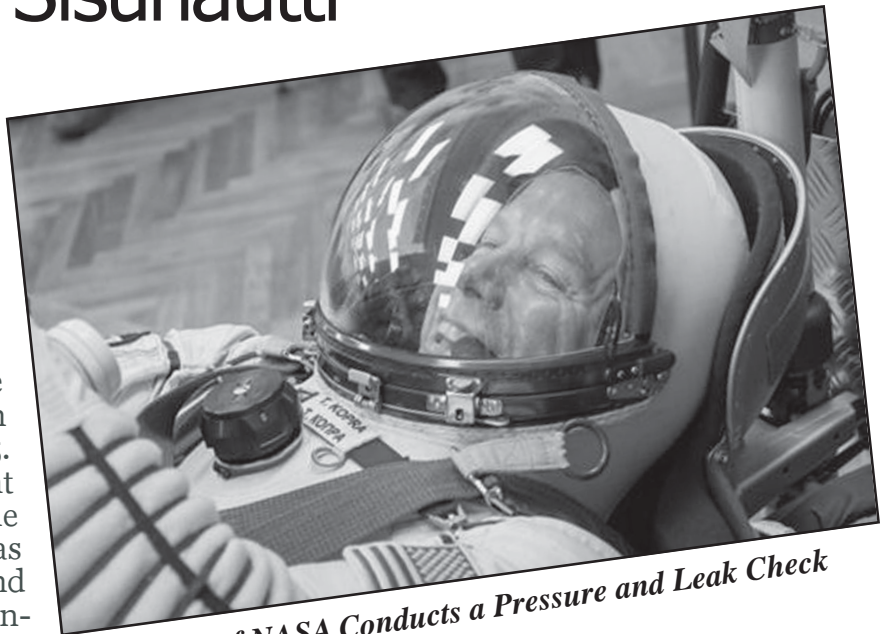
We are proud that the Finnish-American “sisunautti” will be in space soon for the second time and wish Timothy Kopra the best of luck for his upcoming expeditions!

**More information about Timothy Kopra:**

[http://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/expeditions/expedition20/kopra\\_interview.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/expeditions/expedition20/kopra_interview.html)

News, 12/3/2015 | Embassy of Finland, Washington

Finland in the U.S., December 2015



*Tim Kopra of NASA Conducts a Pressure and Leak Check*



*Tim Kopra of NASA and President Tarja Halonen of Finland in July 2010*



## FinnFest USA Announces 2016 Cruise

Join FinnFest USA as it holds its 2016 FinnFest on a cruise ship sailing from Boston to Montreal.

Imagine: Begin your cruise in historic Boston (come early to explore the Freedom Trail, Lexington, and Concord), stop for a lobster bake in picturesque Bar Harbor (Maine), and explore Acadia National Park. As you sail into Canada's pristine waters, take a 'selfie' next to the charming Victorian homes of Charlotte town (Prince Edward Island), tour the stunning Cape Breton Peninsula in Nova Scotia, and explore historic (and very French) Old Quebec, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Travel with others who take pleasure in a Finnish touch to their cruise. Enjoy Finnish music, Finnish films, Finnish cooking demonstrations, talks on the route that many Europeans used to enter North America along with many other Finnish programs each evening.

And that's just the beginning of one marvelous experience after another.

*Unfortunately, space on board is limited. Don't miss the boat!*  
A small deposit secures your reservation.

**Call 800.848.7120 or email**  
**finnfestUSA2016@finevoyages.com**  
**From [www.finnfestusa2016.com](http://www.finnfestusa2016.com)**



## Join Us in Celebrating Finland's Centennial in 2017!



On December 6, 2015, Finland celebrates its 98th birthday. In just two years it is time for Finland's centennial. The centennial will be the most significant commemorative year for a generation of Finns and people with Finnish roots all around the world.

The theme of the centennial year is "Together", and we hope that all Finns, Finnish-Americans, and friends of Finland participate in the celebration in the U.S. Our goal is to arrange a series of events across the states together with all who wish to take part.

We want to bring out the best of modern Finland, be it our vibrant culture, business-friendly environment, beautiful nature, great athletes, or success in issues like education or other aspects of the Nordic way of life.

The planning of the centennial has already started. A group of dedicated volunteers has met

in Washington D.C. three times and has drafted a preliminary plan for 2017. At this stage we would like to welcome all friends of Finland to join the planning process.

We have created a Finland 100 USA website and welcome you to find out more about the events and how to get involved on this website. You can also use the email address [finland100usa@gmail.com](mailto:finland100usa@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the centennial.

The website was designed by one of our wonderful volunteers, Bianca Hutton. Bianca is a creative communications professional and multilingual relationship manager with over 8 years of work experience in PR and project management. Bianca is a true social media powerhouse and we are very excited that she is a part of our centennial efforts.

We are very grateful for all organizations and individuals who are willing to take part in making the year 2017 the best ever for Finland. We are interested in hearing your ideas and want to work together to create a memorable commemorative year.

***Welcome to join the celebration!***

More information: [www.finland100USA.com](http://www.finland100USA.com)  
News, 12/3/2015 | Embassy of Finland, Washington  
*Finland in the U.S., December 2015*

# Adams Assumes Ambassadorship

By David Maki

**A**mbassador Charles Adams, who's been serving as the United States' Ambassador to Finland for a few months now, realizes that he's got his work cut out for him, but he's ready.

"My role as Ambassador ... represents my very first experience of public service, after more than four decades in the private sector," he said. "There is a great deal that I will need to learn about the manner in which American embassies and the Department of State function from an administrative and policy-making point of view."

Adams, who was nominated by President Barack Obama in summer 2014, was officially approved by the U.S. Senate about a year later, and assumed the post officially in August 2015. The 68-year-old native of Northern Ireland (his parents were in the Foreign Service and on assignment when he was born) lived in several countries as a child, and earned a J.D. degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1973. His career has primarily been in international law, though he entered the political realm as a member of the National Advisory Board of the Democratic National Committee, and as the co-chair of Americans Abroad for Obama in the election cycles of 2008 and 2012.

"This is a particularly exciting time to be in Finland," he said, "There are several important issues on the front burner. These include the crisis precipitated by Russia's illegal actions in Crimea and Ukraine; the Arctic Council,



*President Sauli Niinistö of Finland welcomes new U.S. Ambassador Charles Adams*

with the current U.S. chairmanship to be followed by that of Finland in 2017; the negotiation of the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership; ... and the management by Finland of the influx of record numbers of asylum-seekers and refugees.

"I am very confident that the strong relationship of Finland and the United States will prove helpful in addressing all of these matters in a constructive and forward-looking manner."

Adams won't be going it alone when handling these many issues.

"At our Embassy in Helsinki I have a strong team of professional Foreign Service diplomats and locally employed Finnish staff to support me," he said. "I am quite certain that as a team we will prove to be equal to all of the challenges of the mission ahead."

Adams certainly hasn't had difficulty adjusting to life in a foreign country. He spent a large part of his life living overseas and has acquired certain skills because of that.

"I have had the opportunity to master several foreign languages," he said. "My family and I are quite determined to take advantage of our stay in Finland to become conversant in Finnish also, although I must say that this is a formidably difficult language wholly unrelated to any other that I have known."

"The fact that almost everybody in Finland speaks very good English makes it all the more important, in my view, that as a gesture of respect one make the effort to acquire reciprocal familiarity with Finnish."

Outside of the office, Adams will have plenty of opportunities to practice his Finnish language skills while exploring his hobbies. He's already met several fellow wine enthusiasts and is looking forward to trying cross-country skiing.

"I also very much enjoy fishing," he said, "and Finland is a true fisherman's paradise. Plus, I have already had my initiation to both electric and smoke sauna,



along with the obligatory plunges into ice-cold water, and I have become a big fan. We naturally have a sauna in our residence at the Embassy, which is going to be getting a lot of use.

"I expect to be kept plenty busy doing my day job as Ambassador, but for sure I will not lack for activities to enjoy in my spare time."

Even in some of that rare spare time, Adams has been investigating connections between the U.S. and his new home country.

"I have taken a particular interest in the history and demographics of Finnish emigration to the United States," he said. "There are some 450,000 Americans who self-identify as being of Finnish heritage, and they play a very important role in maintaining and consolidating the strong bonds between the two countries."

"I am most hopeful that, during my term as Ambassador to this wonderful country, I will have an opportunity to meet and greet Finnish Americans who travel here to rediscover their roots."

*The Finnish American Reporter*  
January 2015

## Risk of Power Shortages this Winter in Finland

Not since a strike among Finland's power plant workers four decades ago has the risk of winter shortages been greater for the Nordic nation.

Pohjolan Voima Oy mothballed three generators last summer, and plans to switch off another in January, leaving the nation reliant on imports of as much as 3,400 megawatts during cold spells in the coming months, according to Fingrid Oyj, the network manager. That's more than the capacity of Finland's four nuclear reactors, which meet 27 percent of the country's demand.

It's the first time in nine years that Finland's grid warned of a strained power balance before peak winter demand. With the nation's new fifth reactor delayed by nine years and not expected online until the end of 2018, the country's plight won't change for another three years, according to the grid.

"This is the most challenging situation since the 1970s," Mikko Heikkilä, a market design specialist at Fingrid, said by phone from Helsinki. "There was a strike at power plants and consumption had to be prioritized."

Power prices in the Nordic market fell more than 60 percent after peaking in 2008 on Nasdaq OMX Group Inc.'s commodities exchange in Oslo.

Finland isn't planning any short-term moves to add or keep thermal capacity as the risk for outages is low, Economy Minister Olli Rehn said by e-mail on Wednesday. In the longer term, the government will discuss plans for an added strategic reserve and move forward with a new third cable to Sweden.

*The Finnish American Reporter*  
December 2015

### Thank you and a Reminder

As done in the September *Leading Star*, I want to: (1) thank Annabelle Kergan for contributing the front page article in the June issue of the *Leading Star*, and (2) remind our lodges, including individual lodge members, of the need to provide front page articles and lodge meeting and activities articles for future issues of the *Leading Star*. As Annabelle's June front page article mentioned: "The success of the *Leading Star*'s continuation will depend on all the remaining lodges / members being willing to contribute something to each publication."

*Stew Lyons*

*God Jul, Hauskaa Joulua and Merry Christmas to all of our friends from the members of New Haven Lodge.*

*George Nousiainen*



# Finnish Icebreakers Sailing Through Northwest Passage for First Time

The Northwest Passage is a sea route connecting the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans through Arctic waters via the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. The two Finnish icebreakers are returning from their summer season ice management missions in the Chukchi Sea, off the coast of Alaska.

Nordica started its journey on October 16 and was joined by Fennica October 22. This journey offers the Finnish company Arctia Shipping a unique opportunity to cooperate with Canadian partners, observe multiyear ice on the route, and demonstrate the performance and operability of Finnish icebreakers even in the most demanding Arctic conditions. On board the icebreakers is an international group of scientists observing nature, Arctic fauna, as well as weather and ice conditions.

Arctia's multi-purpose icebreakers Nordica and Fennica are built in Rauma, Finland. Both are unique in a global sense – powerful icebreakers with properties ideally suited for tasks requiring maneuverability and accuracy in demanding Arctic conditions. In addition to outstanding icebreaking capacities, Fennica has a large working deck and an A-frame, making it useful in a wide range of research and offshore operations from ice management to anchor handling and other support vessel functions. Nordica's specialty is a 160-ton crane, with an optional onboard A-frame. As her sister

ship Fennica, Nordica meets strict EPA requirements on environment and emissions, making it an ideal choice for operations in the Arctic.

Finnish journalist Heikki Haapavaara and photographer Jarmo Vehkakoski are sailing on board Nordica. They both are from *Kauppalehti*, a commerce-oriented newspaper published in Helsinki. So far they have seen polar bears already three times, but have not had a chance to take pictures of these beautiful white creatures.

The two men were on board also when Arctia's icebreakers sailed through the Northeast Passage in 2012. The Northeast Passage shipping route connects the Pacific and the Atlantic along the northern coasts of the Eur-

asian landmass. However, now is the first time Finnish icebreakers are sailing through multiyear sea ice in the sounds of the Northwest Passage. Compared to the traditional commercial route connecting the Pacific and the Atlantic through the Panama Canal, the Northwest Passage is significantly shorter saving both time and fuel.

Those who read Finnish, can follow the daily blog of these journalists from the Northwest Passage – and the beautiful photos need no language!

[www.kauppalehti.fi/kirjoittaja/heikki-haapavaara](http://www.kauppalehti.fi/kirjoittaja/heikki-haapavaara)

News, 10/27/2015 | Embassy of Finland, Washington  
*Finland in the U.S.*,  
September 2015



***Icebreaker  
NORDICA***



***Icebreaker  
FENNICA***



# Message

*continued from page 3*

special agreement in regard to membership dues with the Order of Runeberg. The Finlandia Order of Runeberg has their own website—here is the “About” page (“Om oss” in Swedish):

[http://for.sangochmusik.fi/sv/om\\_oss/](http://for.sangochmusik.fi/sv/om_oss/)

In June–July of 2008 40-to-50 dancers and singers from Finlandia Order of Runeberg visited and performed at our West Coast lodges in Canada and United States. There are many pictures (wearing traditional folk costume) of this West Coast tour on our website at: <http://www.orderofruneberg.org/ornewseventsinfo.html>

As mentioned early in this article, the *Memorabilia* book contains a detailed and rich history of the Order of Runeberg lodges, including pictures of early members and members at the time of book printing (1968), many pictures of the Runeberg meeting halls, etc.... You are encouraged to explore the *Memorabilia* book if it's available to you, or download the pdf file of interest (the Table of Contents shows the pdf file and page number for each lodge).

**Stew Lyons**

New Haven Lodge #205

**Greetings to all,  
Merry Christmas and a safe,  
happy and prosperous  
New Year!**



**Alfred Nelson**  
Coos Bay Lodge

# Genealogy Corner

*continued from page 5*

settled in America. On the walls were large lists with the names of all the emigrants. Old photographs from those olden days were also displayed.

When it was dark it was a beautiful sight to see New York with its lights and advertising signs from the seaside. Then we took the train back to Connecticut.

Then came the day to go back home. It was evening when we flew home. New York was beautiful to see from the air. We left America with a certain sadness. The trip home was 1 ½ hours faster because we flew with the earth's rotation. It took a whole week for my biological clock to adjust. But it was an interesting and worthwhile trip. We thank all who took care of us and showed us around the US, especially Per Kronquist with whom we stayed.

Elof Sänkas, *Norden* 13 Jan 2005

English translation by **June Pelo**

## Publication Fund Report

Costs associated with the March issue of the *Leading Star* were paid by IOR. After paying the costs associated with the publication of two issues (June and September) of the *Leading Star* and one annual fee for our website's internet service provider (ISP), it is clear as to how long the Publication Fund will allow us to continue publishing, not withstanding new contributions or funding.

Summary of costs:

Per *Leading Star* issue:

Editors' stipend:	\$200
Graphics:	\$480
LS postage:	\$204.69
Printing:	\$136.41
Total / issue:	\$1021.10
ISP fee / yr:	\$158.49

Based on the above costs and assuming the costs do not change significantly, there is enough money in the fund to support the publication of a total of eight *Leading Star* issues (2 full years) – June 2015 through March 2017. At our 2014 convention there was mention that the fund was estimated to provide 3 years of *Leading Star* publication – unless we obtain contributions / funding. *Leading Star's* last issue will be the March 2017 issue, at which point the *Leading Star* will have celebrated 111 years of publication – 1<sup>st</sup> published in January 1906.

Publication Fund Balances:

Initial:	\$9,000.00
Current:	\$6,799.31

Report submitted by

**Stew Lyons**

# THE LEADING STAR

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La Palma, CA 90623-1501



Address Service Requested

## Order of Runeberg Lodges

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Lodge #8  
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### OREGON

Lodge #126  
North Bend/Coos Bay

### WASHINGTON

Lodge #106  
Tacoma

Visit our website:

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

## CURRENCY RATES

1 EURO= 1.09USD

1 USD= 0.91 EURO

XE-01/16/16

Please submit all  
news, resolutions, and articles  
February 28, 2016  
for publication in the March  
*Leading Star*