

United Finnish Kaleva Brothers & Sisters, Astoria, Oregon

Founded December 6, 1886 as a non-profit, non-political organization

Kahden Uutiset

Volume 17, Number 3

Toukokuu/Kesakuu –May/June 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all.

Hope everyone is well and doing good during the extraordinary circumstances in our lives. All of our activities and meetings for May have been canceled or postponed but the work at our Lodge continues. Your 2020 officers are hard at work with so much going on. Committees have formed and meetings have continued with conference calls, group emails and texts. We will wait and see how June looks to resume our meetings because the health and well-being of our membership is the top priority. I have posted the June meeting on our calendar and if we are able to safely meet, we will.

The March meeting and St. Urho Potluck were well attended, and the food was delicious as usual. We enjoyed welcoming Kaisa Kariranta, a Finnish pastor who is presently serving the Finnish Messiah Church in Portland. She provided the prayer before our meal singing it in Finnish. She spoke on her experiences working abroad in Finnish communities in London, Costa del Sol and now in Portland.

We initiated five new members in March. Welcome to Cherie Cornwell and Jean Harrison, relatives of the late George Harrison, a member for many years. Craig and Sara Wisti, long time residents of Astoria and Mindi Finch who works at Clatsop Care on 16th street where there are many Finnish residents.

Thank you to our scholarship committee for the great job of establishing our U.F.K.B.&S. Astoria Lodge scholarship in time to be awarded this year. If you know a student on track to graduate High School this year and is interested in applying, the deadline is May 15th. Applicants must have a direct relationship to U.F.K.B. & S. Astoria Lodge by being a member, or a descendant of a member in good standing. Congratulations, great job and thank you to the committee: Dena Tuveng, Katy Pritchard, Carole Lyngstad, Mary Cornell, Saara Matthews, Julie Overby, and Craig and Sara Wisti.

For more information and an application: Contact Dena Tuveng @ 503.791.2401 or Katy Pritchard @ 503.440-0010

The "Friends of Suomi Hall," our new non-profit completed the conference call (all safely distancing from their homes) with the attorney on March 16th. The by-laws were accepted. Congratulations and thank you to the new Officers and Directors of the Friends of Suomi Hall. Marvin Hautala, President; Peggy Nikkila, Vice President; Mike Duncan, Corporate Secretary; Carole Lyngstad, Financial Secretary; William Herold, Treasurer and Directors; Eric Williams, Mike Wagenblast, Julie Overby, LeRoy Adolphson, and Wes Ginther. Members of U.F.K.B&S Astoria Lodge in good standing as of March 26th, 2020 will be voting members of "Friends of Suomi Hall."

Eric Williams, our archivist is working on a website for us. He is requesting photos. Photos of past events or activities. Old photos are highly desirable, and he can scan them and return them to you but they must be good quality, not blurry ones. Any kind of memorabilia would be great. Even newspaper clipping or event programs. Enjoy the article in this KU about what he has been doing. Eric has a dropbox request link for you to drop image or document files into for upload to his Dropbox account.

It will accept any file size and type and is a secure encrypted link: <https://www.dropbox.com/request/BzafLXgSln2hPuGFd8O9>.

Eric is also looking to record family histories. Please contact him to share your family history.

Phone: 206.909.7810. Email: Divepuget1@me.com. You may also mail them to the Lodge, PO Box 201, Astoria, Or. 97103

The 2020 Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival is canceled. There was a nice article in the Astorian and Carla Oja, chairperson reminded us. "It will still be a time to celebrate. We recommend people plan a midsummer celebration at their home with their family this year." We are encouraged to enjoy our Nordic culture and post pictures on social media. Post and share on the Facebook pages of the Festival association and Suomi Hall and send pictures to Eric, our archivist.

The 2020 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival Court was introduced on March 10th at Astoria High School. It was well attended, and our Senior Miss Finland Emma Biederman and our Junior Miss Finland Avery Hoyer did great jobs with their speeches.

As did Miss Scandinavia Sofia Morrel, our 2019 Senior Miss Finland. Emma and Avery have agreed to continue on into 2021 as our Senior and Junior Miss Finlands. Thank you to them and their families

The Finnish American Folk Festival announced the cancellation of the 20th biennial festival scheduled for July 24th – 26th in Naselle.

Stay well everyone.

Kiitos, Karen Van Cleave Cell: 503 791-7805 Email: kvc@pacifier.com

Lodge News. By Felicia Ginther, Lodge Secretary

President Karen Van Cleave called the March business meeting to order at 2:30 PM. 20 members were present.

Charter was draped for Ella Hill

Applications for Membership: 1 – Cherie Cornwell, motion to approve application and initiate during meeting was approved.

Initiations: 5 (2) in absentia: Cherie Cornwell & Jean Harrison. (3) present: Mindi Finch, Craig Wisti & Sara Wisti

Minutes of the February 9th, 2020 Lodge meeting were approved as read.

Communications: None

Committee Reports

Sick Committee submitted by Pro Tem Charolette Nyberg: Dena fell and hurt herself and unable to attend meeting. Karen will be sending her a “Get well” card. “Thinking of You” cards will be sent to Peggy Nikkila and Katy Pritchard.

Trustees Report submitted by Marvin Hautala: Going through a transition phase. There is discussion of building responsibility. Exhaust fan is kitchen not working, Leroy will look into this issue. Lights need to be changed and plumbing needs to be addressed. Existing trustees will act as “Friends of Suomi Hall” directors, with the possibility of 15 directors in total. State and Federal reports need to be filed, and Carole Lyngstad has been guiding the trustees through this process. Helen mentioned that there are lots of blackberries growing up the east side of the building. Maybe establish a “clean up” crew for this project.

Friends of Suomi Hall reported by Carole Lyngstad: There is a 2-hour conference call with the attorneys scheduled for Monday March 16th at 11am. Marvin is to give a list of directors to the attorneys. Karen has asked the lodge if there are any members present that are interested in participating as directors for “Friends of Suomi Hall”. Marvin nominated Julie Overby and Michael Wagonblast. Motion to appoint Julie and Michael as directors for “Friends of Suomi Hall” was moved, seconded and unanimously approved. There is a minimum of five officer positions for “Friends of Suomi Hall”, and it is encouraged that any members of the lodge, new or existing, help lend their expertise.

Auxiliary: March meeting was called to order by co-president Dea Helligso. A gift was presented to Charlotte Nyberg, outgoing secretary, as a thank you for her years as Auxiliary secretary. Katie Ryding reported the Nordic Market was very successful with 16 vendors, a pannukkaku breakfast, white elephant sale and a raffle. David Drafall reported we could have sold twice as much pannukkaku. Plans were discussed for the St. Urho’s potluck, Princess Tea and the Scandinavian court visit in May. A T-shirt committee was formed to work on designs for a Friends of Suomi Hall T-shirt. The baby shower for Felicia Ginther will be held on Saturday, March 7th. All are welcome. The Auxiliary voted to donate money from the Nordic Market to add to the baby gift from the Auxiliary. Discussion was held about donating to the lodge. It was suggested \$6000 be donated with the request that \$2000 go to the lodge general fund and \$4000 go to start the Scholarship account. Approved. Scandinavian Festival Rice Pudding booth was discussed with Dea volunteering to be overall chair. Discussion was held as to do prune tarts or rice pudding for the Finnish-American Folk Festival in July. An overall chairperson is needed.

Scholarship: Scholarship members Dena Tuveng, Carole Lyngstad, Mary Cornell, Katy Pritchard, Saara Matthews, and Julie Overby have been working on the Scholarship By-Laws and application. First meeting at 3-Cups then going to email communication. Two motions were made and approved. The Lodge will establish a scholarship fund in the amount of \$8000. \$4000 from Auxiliary and \$4000 from the Lodge. The funds will be deposited into the Astoria High School Scholarship Inc. fund where they will continue to grow. Our fund will have its own name and identity within that fund and our committee will select the recipients. The committees immediate task is to finalize the application and get it out to the schools. Sara and Craig Wisti volunteered to join the committee.

Scandinavian Festival: 2020 Midsummer Festival Court Introduction will be held at Astoria High School on Tuesday March 10, 2020 at 7pm. Next meeting will be held on Wednesday March 18th, 2020 at Peace Lutheran Church at 6:30pm.

Congratulations to Nettie Blair, selected to be Grand Marshall of the 2020 festival.

Nordic Park: Things are moving right along. \$75k has been sent to OM Stone Contractor for some of the hardware.

Uniontown: Nothing new to report

Annual Picnic has been announced for Sunday August 16th, 2020 at noon at Cullaby Lake. South shelter has been reserved and a chair is needed for the event.

Unfinished Business

Princess Tea: Meeting scheduled for Saturday March 14, 2020 at 9am at the Lodge.

Summer School: Meeting scheduled for Saturday March 14, 2020 at 9am at the Lodge.

New Business: Aaron Ginther had asked about putting in a “General Contractor” advertisement in the Kahden Uutiset. In the past the KU has sold advertising slots. More discussion is needed as there is uncertainty of what a cost would be. This would provide an opportunity to support the Lodge and member of the Lodge if approved. This has been tabled for the next business meeting.

Aaron was asked to come up with an “advertisement” ad in the meantime.

Arnie would like to invite Karl Marlantes, author of “Deep River” speak during one of the Lodge meetings. Carole has contacted his publicist twice with no response. She will continue with the hope of inviting him to our Anniversary Dinner in November.

Good of the Order: Thanks to Dea Helligso for March raffle prizes. Katie Ryding will provide raffle prizes for April meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

The next regular Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, April 13th, 2020.

Meet Eric Williams- Archivist



Since I've taken on the project of organizing and digitizing the Lodge's Archives. On the bright side there is a great deal of lodge material I've scanned, from Lodge business matters to Grand Lodge Convention Minutes to Grand Lodge correspondence, photos. One of my most recent discoveries in the Lodge attic was the original 1937 Historia manuscript and correspondence between lodges. It was the first definitive history of all the lodges and was found in a musty mildewed cardboard box with water damage. Lots of outdoor cleaning of the papers was required to dust away spores and remove rusty paper clips. Thankfully, all was intact and scannable. Another interesting find were a few Suomi Temperance Society letters corresponding with their attorney in regards to the well-publicized Supreme Court Case, between Matti Kemppainen, Plaintiff versus Suomi Temperance Society, Defendant in 1928.

At the turn of last century there was a great enthusiastic atmosphere for publishing Finnish ideas. Astoria had a great abundance of Finnish language publishing. Newspapers such as the Toveri, Toveritar, Lännen Suometar, Lännen Uutiset, Lännetar, had nationwide coverage to other Finnish Communities. There are literally only a hand full of newspapers that can be found. I had hoped the Astoria Public Library would have some in Its archives, but none can be found. Liisa Penner at the Clatsop County Historical Society had only a few in their collection. One of the best publications was the Veljeysviesti, starting in 1926 up until recently. The community is missing nearly half of the issues. I'm the process of digitizing these also. Many books were published here on all topics, but few can be found in. I find a great deal of Astoria material in other libraries and archives around the world but very little here, unfortunately not easily accessible to us!

Our collection of photographs is very small, I was expecting to find scrapbooks, newspaper articles, letters, etc. I've searched through the Clatsop County Historical Society for Lodge material. I found some material has been donated to them over the years but not a great abundance of Lodge photos to be found, some of our legal documents have mysteriously ended up there, along with Temperance Society Ledgers!

My mission is to preserve and document what we have or what is hidden or lost in our attics and closets. I strongly urge members or past members to make an effort to dig through their family archives. If anyone is aware of old Finnish families that had a connection to Astoria that are living elsewhere please ask if they have any materials to borrow. I would love to digitize Finnish family history materials for the Lodge Archives. We have a remarkable history that needs to be preserved and well documented. As of now I've scanned nearly 30,000 pages of documents and looking forward to doing lots more! Please contact me if you have any questions or materials to contribute.

Thank You

Eric B Williams

Divepuget1@me.com or 206-909-7810.



Felicia's Baby Shower



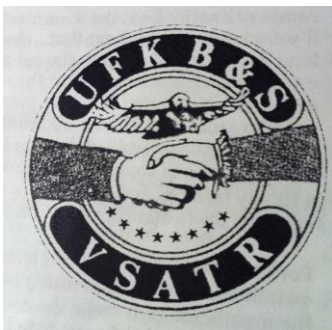
**Jr. and Sr. Miss Finland
Avery Hoyer and Emma Biederman**



**Kaisa Kariranta
Speaker at our March Meeting**

Kahden Uutiset
PO Box 201
Astoria, Or. 97103

FIRST CLASS MAIL



ASTORIA LODGE CALENDAR

FOR THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF OUR MEMBERSHIP
ALL MAY LODGE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED

Hyvää vappua! **Happy Vappu!**
Hyvää juhannusta! **Happy midsummer!**

U.F.K.B.&S. Astoria Lodge 2020 scholarship applications due May 15th.

Monday, June 1ST: Auxiliary meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Monday, June 8TH: "Friends of Suomi Hall" Directors meeting 5:00 PM.

Social, 6:00 PM

Membership Business Meeting, 7:00 PM

**** JUNE MEETINGS SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION ****