

United Finnish Kaleva Brothers & Sisters Astoria Lodge

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

Kahden Uutiset

Volume 18, Number 2

Maaliskuu/Huhtikuu – March/April 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is well and safe during this unprecedented time. March and April membership meetings are cancelled and we will meet again when it is safe to do so. We will meet with a celebration.

In February the letter was sent to members concerning the combining of U.F.K.B & S. and the Friends of Suomi Hall into one entity for simplification of administrative duties and for tax purposes. Thank you! The response was overwhelming and positive. Thank you for the comments, the phone calls and the questions. We all still have a lot of questions but we will work through them for the good of the Lodge and Suomi Hall. We will continue with the help of our attorney, an accountant familiar with non-profit organizations, and our hardworking executive boards. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved, serving on the board or have skills and experience that would be beneficial during this transition.

The Auxiliary did meet in February for the annual appreciation of members meeting. Usually it is held at a local restaurant but this year, personal pizzas were ordered and masks and social distancing in place in the Lodge room. Thanks to hostess Faith, and President Dea it was a great event. We thank the Auxiliary for all their hard work and money raised during the past year. They adjusted how they did things to be able to continue with their important events and fund raising. From Rice Pudding and Fruit Soup for Midsummer, to Laksloda, then the very successful Prune Tart sale for the Holidays adjustments were made so these important events could continue. Members and the community greatly appreciated it. The Auxiliary passed along money raised to the Lodge account with \$5000 to go for the scholarship fund. If you have a high school senior interested in our Lodge scholarship they may contact their local school counselor or member Katy Pritchard. Phone or text: 503.440-0010. Email: pritchard297@gmail.com. Stay safe and well everyone.

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

A SURVEY NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED BY ANYONE WHO WANTS TO GET COVID-19 VACCINE WHO LIVES IN CLATSOP COUNTY.

This information was passed on to us from the Senior Center in Astoria. You may contact them for additional help.

In addition, please forward this to anyone who needs to have this information. It is urgent as this is the ONLY way to sign-up for the shot!!!

Group 1B includes childcare providers, early learning and K-12 educators/staff. It also encompasses older age groups 80+, 75+, 70+ and 65+.

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/ba249087ad5d428f87313943463fabee>

The above can also be accessed at co.clatsop.or.us/pubichealth/page/covid-19-vaccine-survey.

Lodge Officers:

President: Karen Van Cleave
 Elder: Trudy Enke
 First Vice: Ron Collman
 JR. Vice: Dena Tuveng
 Financial Sec: Katie Ryding
 Recording Sec: Felicia Ginther
 Treasurer: Faith Swanson
 Conductress: Julie Leonhardt Overby
 Doorkeeper: Michael Wagenblast

Auditors:

Chris Lynn Taylor
 Leila Collier
 David Drafall

Lodge Historians:

Liisa Penner
 Arnie Hummasti

Lodge Archivist & Historian:

Eric B. Williams

Auxiliary Officers:

President: Dea Helligso
 Vice President: David Drafall
 Secretary: Chris Lynn Taylor
 Treasurer: Beth Kandoll

Friends of Suomi Hall Directors:

President: Marvin Hautala
 Vice President: Peggy Nikkila
 Corporate Sec: Mike Duncan
 Financial Sec: Carole Lynstad
 Treasurer: William Herold
 Director: Mike Wagenblast
 Director: Eric Williams

HAPPY BIRTHDAY MEMBERS!**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Heidi Nissen	1
Elsa Cline	3
Briitta Algeyer	4
Kim Supple	5
Peggy Pogue	7
Anita Raistakka	7
Claudia Deloff	8
Fred Larson	8
Susan Cox	10
Richard Stelzig	11
Sara Wisti	11
William Meyer	12
Doug Kero	13
Charolette Nyberg	13
Leila Collier	14
Katherine Hendrickson	18
Erica Curtis	19
Cathy Oja	21
Jeff Cline	22
Greta Robinson	22

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Thersea Passsetti-Fonseca	3
Leena Riker	5
Rebecca Rubens	5
Esther Gotting	8
John Mattila	8
Pirjo Schulbach	10
Rick Parrish	12
David Drafall	14
Karen Cornell	16
Sandra Robinson	16
Maese	17
Lawrence Martin Jr.	17
James Dickson	20
Jerry Gustafson	20
Austin Long	21
Jon Westerholm	24
Julie Leonhardt-Overby	28

Other Notes:

The New director Annika at the Appelo Archives Center has reached out to us inquiring if we know of anyone that has knowledge about looms. She has some questions regarding theirs. If you can help email her at info@appeloarchives.org or text 714.930.6175.

The City of Astoria has received a grant from the Oregon Parks and Recreation local government grant program for enhancements along the Riverwalk from Portway Street to 17th Street. The project will include adding lighting along the path, replacement of and installing new interpretive signs and wayfinding signs to locate amenities and provide information about site history and the natural environment.

Ode to Saint Urho

by Gene McCavic and Richard Mattson

Virginia, Minnesota

Ooksi kooksi coolama vee
Santia Urho is ta poy for me!
He sase out ta hoppers as pig as pirds.
Neffor peefor haff I hurd tose words!

He reely tolt tose pugs of kreen
Braffest Finn I effer seen
Some celebrate for St. Pat unt hiss nakes
Putt Urho poyka kot what it takes.

He kot tall and trong from feelia sour
Unt ate kala moyakka effery hour.
Tat's why tat kuy could sase toes peetles
What krew as thick as chack bine neetles.

So let's give a cheer in hower pest vay
On Sixteenth of March, St. Urho's Tay.

If there is a holy grail for the imaginary Saint Urho, it would be the original hand-written poem, "A Ode to Saint Urho." The poem was phonetically written, so when read aloud it would sound as if speaking with a heavy Finnish accent. The poem was scribed in the mid-1950s by Gene McCavic, an employee of Ketola's Department Store in Virginia, Minn. The inspiration for the prose (and co-author) was fellow employee, Richard Mattson, who spun a tale of a Finnish Saint who had killed all the frogs in Finland. For over 60 years, the poem, which is written on parcel wrapping paper, has been carefully preserved and archived at the Minnesota Discovery Centre in Chisolm. However, while the poem lied dormant in a box, the legend of St. Urho morphed and grew to become the "holiday" that we celebrate today.

There are three significant differences from the original tale to the tale today. First, the poem states that St. Urho killed all the frogs in Finland, compared to chasing away grasshoppers. Second, the original poem makes no note of grapes. However, an interview with Richard Mattson in 1998 (also archived at the Minnesota Discovery Center) recounts the day back in 1953 or 1956 (time forgets) where he elaborates on the idea of poisonous frogs contaminating the grape crops during the ice age. And last is the discrepancy of the date, from May 24 to March 16. All three changes seem to have happened at the same time and relatively quickly. A 1956 article written by Clarence Ivonen in the *Mesabi Daily News* writes, "While the sons and daughters of Erin are paying their respects to St. Patrick, Mattson was loudly praising the feats of Saint Urho."

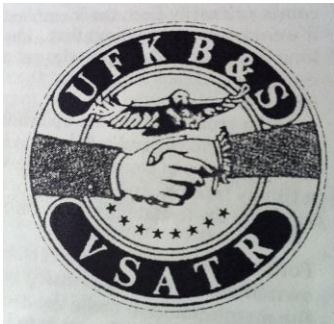
Another theory for the changes could be politically charged. Given the political climate during post WWII Europe, one cannot help but make a parallel to our North American Saint Urho and Finland's revered President Urho Kekkonen, son of a lumberjack, who was elected in March of 1956 and was best known for keeping neutral relations with the Soviet Union (a potential swarm of locusts that could have easily invaded the smaller Finnish country).

St. Urho's Day has become a world-wide phenomenon and is even celebrated by some in Finland. But there is another Finland that has celebrated St. Urho's Day for over 40 years: Finland, Minn. In 1976, the U.S. government encouraged communities to celebrate community pride for the bicentennial, and the name of the community itself should explain their heritage celebration. Every year since then, State Hwy 1 is shut down to accommodate a parade that begins at the top of a hill and makes its way through the town. Finland's population of 400 people swells to about 1,000 people over the festive weekend.

Then, stories of St. Urho crossed north of the border. The legend of the Saint was first introduced to those in Thunder Bay in the early 1980s when the ORAS Chamber Choir held a celebration at the Finnish Labor Temple (Finn Hall) on Bay Street. St. Urho's Day is (un)officially March 16, but festivities occur on whatever Saturday falls closest to that date. So when the party for St. Urho was scheduled for March 17, 1984, local Irish citizens protested. In the cover of darkness, they painted a green stripe and shamrocks along Bay Street. And during the celebration, a group of patrons from a local Irish pub paraded through the Finn Hall with banners that read, "Irishmen are #1." But instead of conflict, the Finns welcomed the Irish, and over a beer the two groups celebrated their Saints.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



HAPPY
ST. URHO's
DAY

