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Vol 21 and No 4

September/October 2024

# Kahden Uutiset

Friends of Suomi Hall

Formerly known as United Finnish Kaleva Brothers & Sisters Astoria Lodge #2

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

Finlandia Foundation Astoria Chapter

## President's Message:

Hauskaa Syksyn aikaa kaikille. Happy Fall everyone!

My goodness, but it has been a truly busy summer!

July found us enjoying an amazing concert by the Brownsmead Flats! It was a great start to fundraising for our renovation of the hall! We were able to raise \$1,300!

There were two anonymous donors who did matches, many thanks!

August found the hall bustling with activity for the Third Annual Suomi School! MANY, MANY thanks to our wonderful staff, volunteers, students, parents, and anonymous donor, and Auxiliary for the wonderful snacks. What a busy and great week! Students enjoyed a week of The Princess Mouse, Kalevala story by Mr. Mark Erickson, fun and exciting crafts led by Tami Stelzig and Peggy Nikkila, and Moomin story mapping, language, and songs. We were thrilled to be able to explore Kanteles thanks to Helen Stevenson procuring them from Naselle, and Elisa Boynton came over from Portland to give us a quick morning lesson and joined our program on Friday! It was a great, fast, and busy week. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

The students were also able to join in on some Regatta fun with the Kiddie events in Warrenton on Thursday night and the Grand Land Parade in Astoria on Saturday. Great fun was had by all.

The Ameriikan Poijat were also here from Minnesota in August! They performed several concerts in the local area including one at the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park and the downtown campus of Peace First Lutheran Church. They were quite wonderful to listen to, we hope you got to hear them.

In August we also had our Lodge Picnic! Great fun was had by all as the weather cleared for us to enjoy the sunshine. There was SO MUCH delicious food, great companionship, and the kids had a great time playing games and generally running about! Thank you to everyone who helped with this!

In August, our very own Karen Van Cleave was honored with the Sauna Bucket award through the Columbia Pacific Chapter of The Finlandia Foundation. It was a well deserved award for all her work in the lodge and her being instrumental in starting so many programs like the Princess Tea and Suomi School. Congratulations to Karen!

Our Auxiliary was busy not only with Suomi School but also with memorials of members from the lodge. It is truly sad to lose members who are great friends to many. All our departed members will be honored at our Annual Meeting in December.

Please check the calendar of meetings at the end of the newsletter and join us for the events and meetings listed! If you have a program/hobby/travels/or something of interest you'd love to share at our monthly meetings please be in touch with one of the trustees. We'd love to see what our members are up to!

It's that time of year, believe it or not! BUT, if you know of a potential Junior Miss Finland or Senior Miss Finland, please contact either ChrisLynn Taylor or Leila Collier.

Leila Collier  
President, Board of Trustees  
503.791.1139, mlcollier62@gmail.com



**SAUNA BUCKET AWARD WINNER  
FOR 2024: KAREN VANCLEAVE!**  
Congratulations to Karen on being  
selected as the 2024 recipient of the  
Sauna Bucket Award from the  
Columbia Pacific Chapter of the  
Finlandia Foundation. Well deserved!  
Many Congratulations!



## THIRD ANNUAL SUOMI SCHOOL

What a blast was had by all! Please enjoy the pictures and you can just tell everyone was having a great time! THANK YOU to everyone who helped in ANY way! Too numerous to mention! THANK YOU! Kiitos Paljon!



Our Princesses shared about their costumes and heritage!



Wonderful helpers!



Snacks, YUM!!



Senior Court Chaperone, Lindy Hartvigson, shared how much work it is to get into her own costume, and shared how “adjustable” the skirt is!



Crafts and art fun. Each student got to take home their own copy of the Moomin Mail book at the end of the week.



THANK YOU from all of us who attended/helped/organized! Onward to Year 4!

# PICNIC FUN!





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## Auxiliary News

It's almost time to make prune tarts for the holidays at the hall. If you would like to join us, text or call 971-704-6243 (Beth). We will start making them Monday, October 28 at 9 AM and continue on Mondays through November. If you would like to place your order for one dozen frozen tarts, text or call 503-440-9002 (Chris Lynn). Price is \$20/dozen when you pick them up. Kiitos.

## Laksloda Luncheon

Plan on attending our annual laksloda meal, prepared and served at the hall. This fall event features salmon prepared with potatoes, rieska, pickled beets, green vegetable, apple crisp and coffee. Put Saturday, October 19 on your calendar. Come hungry and eat all you want from 11:30-1:30. Cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for those under 12 years of age.

The auxiliary enjoys preparing for this community spirited event. We hope to see you there.



# A Member Attends FinnFest

## FinnFest 2024 in Duluth, Minnesota with my Sister Ellen!

We enjoyed fantastic entertainment, informative speakers, delicious food, and dancing, while meeting many interesting fellow Finns from across the country. This was Ellen's first FinnFest, something we had talked about doing together for several years.

When we arrived, we greeted the couple parked next to us, and, of course, one of the first questions was, "Where are you from?" They were from Lake Worth, Florida, and when I mentioned we were from Astoria, they replied that they had visited and even taken a tour of Suomi Hall. I remembered their visit to Suomi Hall, and they even found pictures from their time there.

Frank Eld, past Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year, Finnish log construction expert, and a member of our lodge, was also at the festival. He shared helpful information about old homesteads in the area, which we later visited. Finlandia Foundation National, a major sponsor, had a strong presence and presented a wonderful fashion show of vintage Marimekko pieces from the Historical Archives in Hancock, Michigan.

After FinnFest, we traveled to the Upper Peninsula to visit the Finnish American Heritage Center and Northwind Books. We spent a day exploring Calumet, found the family farmhouse in Houghton, and placed flowers on the family plot at the cemetery. And, of course, we ate pasties every chance we got!

FinnFest will be in Duluth again next year. I encourage you to attend and explore this beautiful city with its great architecture and steep hills that rival those of Astoria.

Karen Van Cleave



## Upcoming Calendar

OCTOBER:

Monday, October 7, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee. 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Saturday, October 19, Lakslova Luncheon, 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Monday, October 14, Board of Trustees, 9:30 AM

Monday, October 14, Members Meeting, 6:00 PM Coffee, 7:00 PM Business Meeting

**NOVEMBER:**

Monday, November 4, Board of Trustees, 9:30 AM

Monday, November 4, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee. 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Sunday, November 10, Members Meeting, Thanksgiving Potluck 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM Business Meeting

**DECEMBER:**

Monday, December 2 Board of Trustees, 9:30 AM

Monday, December 2, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee. 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Friday, December 6, Finnish Independence Dy, Astoria Heritage Nordic Park, Time, TBD

Sunday, December 8, Friends of Suomi Hall Annual Meeting 1:00 PM, followed by Pikku Joulu Celebration

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Katie Ryding Financial Secretary

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