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Vol 21 and No 5

November/December 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:

Hello and Happy Holiday Season to you all. The leaves are falling and we just experienced a thunder and lightning storm at my home. I can't believe how beautiful the sunsets and sunrises have been.

Suomi Hall has been buzzing with Fall activities! There was an amazing Laksloda Luncheon a few weeks back, and people are still buzzing about how good the meal was. I hope you were able to join us, or took home a to-go box! It was so much fun to see everyone there and enjoy everyone's company. It was a great event!

The Trustees have been busy with planning events as well. Please join us for the Annual Membership Meeting in December. December 8, 1 pm for a meal, and 2 pm for the Membership Meeting. Hope to see as many of you there as possible.

If you got to get out and saw any of the plays in production this fall, I sure hope you got to see our very own Thespian Arnie Hummasti! The play "The Woman in Black" was during the month of September. I heard it, and he was fantastic!

We have lots of events coming up! The festival of Sankta Lucia will be November 27, 7pm, at Astoria High School. Our very own Miss Finland, Riley Phillips, will be the Sankta Lucia Bride! Come out and support her that night.

The Friends of Suomi Hall is now on the list of Oregon Cultural Trust. What does this mean? Well, it gives us a broader base for people to donate to our non-profit. And, with us needing to do fundraising for our building restoration this couldn't come at a better time.

Check out: <https://culturaltrust.org/>

Other events coming up are:

December 6, Finnish Independence Day. We will gather at the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park for coffee, treats, and music.

December 13, Light in the Darkness 5-8 pm, also at the Astoria Nordic Heritage Park. Sponsored by the Astoria Scandinavian Heritage Association to remember those who have passed but are still in our memories at Christmas time. It's also a fundraiser for Astoria Nordic Heritage Park and an opportunity to experience the park and community at nighttime. In case of inclement weather it will be held on December 18

Respectfully Submitted

Leila Collier, President of the Board of Trustees

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## **ANNUAL MEETING!**

**Sunday, December 8, 1:00 PM**  
**meal/entertainment 2:00 PM**

**COME ONE and ALL!!**

# Laks-tober

The Auxiliary catered the Thompson Family Reunion on October 5th. They requested the Traditional Laksloda dinner for about 50 people and an appetizer table for the reception. Our crew worked seamlessly to deliver a perfect event. Many people commented on the delicious food and great staff.

That was the precursor to the Annual Laksloda Dinner on the 19th. Once again the members of the Auxiliary met every need; shopping, preparing, serving, cleaning up, operating the elevator, and cashiering, thank you to everyone! We had 111 guests who gave us many compliments on the outstanding laksloda. Some had come from Aberdeen, Vancouver and Portland just for this meal.

I have worked in the food industry for many years but have never worked with people so dedicated and willing to do whatever it takes to deliver an excellent event.

Monet Kiitokset!

Anne Kaisa





Ann Stickle, Auxiliary President working hard!



Faith Swanson and Carole Lyngstad taking your payments!



Helen Pitkanen and Nettie Blair taking a break



The Ladies in Blue (mostly)





Our very own Nettie Blair celebrated her 90th birthday in September!

## Order Joulu Torttu Today!

Time to order your prune tarts for the holidays. The auxiliary is meeting most Mondays at Suomi Hall at 9AM for making prune tarts (joulu torttu). If you would like to see how they are made and be a helper, call or text Beth at 971-704-6243.

If you would rather order your dozen tarts (frozen and ready to bake at home), they are \$20/dozen. Text or call Chris Lynn at 503-440-9002) and she will take your order.

Last year we made and sold 225 dozen tarts. Profits from tarts sold go toward maintenance of Suomi Hall in Uniontown.

## Finnish Recipe Corner

## Porkkanalaatikko

What memories do you have of food during Christmas? Well, mine always centers around Porkkanalaatikko! My mom made it a lot during holidays, get-togethers, and when we had company over. There was never any leftovers! Never! And, my husband and kids love it too!

So easy to make, and so delicious. It's very traditional at Christmas. Here's a simple recipe for it.

### Ingredients:

2 Cups Rice

2 Cups Milk (or cream)

1kg Medium Carrots, shredded

1/2 Teaspoon Salt

3 Tablespoons Butter

1/3 Cup of fine Bread or Cracker crumbs

Cook the Rice

Shred the Carrots

Mix the Rice, shredded Carrots, Eggs, Milk (to taste), Salt in a greased Casserole dish

Dot the surface with dabs of butter and sprinkle crumbs over

If you're feeling artistic, pattern the surface with a spoon or fork

Bake at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 40-45 minutes. It should be golden brown on top by the time it's cooked. Depending on your oven, you may need to adjust the time a bit.

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## Book Review: *The Derelict Light*

*By Arnie Hummasti*

If you have an interest in Astoria history, including some of the history of Finns in

Astoria, you may enjoy Mike Stark's recent novel (2023), *The Derelict Light*. The story revolves around the 1922 Astoria fire and its effects on the town, the people and the future. Stark mixes real historical events (including the fire, the fishing and forestry industries, the influence of the early Wobblies union, Finnish immigrants, and a strong presence of the KKK) with his imagined characters and their involvement in and reactions to the Astoria of that time. Perhaps the book will motivate you to do a little research to determine what in the story is fact and what fiction.

The book opens with a body hanging from Sandborn's dock in the aftermath of the fire. This actually happened and remains a mystery. Stark, however, asks who he was, was he murdered, by whom and why, and he links the incident to the larger mystery of who started the fire and why.

Several Finns are key characters: Jorma Olli (who dies in a fishing accident), Joseph Leino, Leino's son Arni, and his daughter Lily, who falls in with the wrong crowd. The Finnish Socialists and Reds and the staff of the Astoria Finnish newspaper, *Toveri*, are also prominently featured.

Some may find it annoying and/or confusing that the book goes backward and forward in time, chapter by chapter (though each chapter conveniently lists the year in which it takes place), and that various chapters jump from one seemingly unrelated plot to another. But, as one might expect, in the end all the plots converge to help solve the mystery of the Astoria fire.

The book presents an extensive list of potential arsonists. Stark provides each with a motive to have started the fire. At the conclusion of the novel readers will know who set the fire and why. But does Stark's conclusion match what actually happened? Look it up.

Astoria itself is one of the main characters in the book, beckoning immigrants, suffering, and ultimately reinventing itself.

Stark lives in Arizona but for a time lived in Astoria and was a reporter for the *Daily Astorian*.



There was a random guest at the hall a few weeks ago! His name was Jukka Nousianinen. He just saw that the hall was open and came in. He played the piano and sang some beautiful songs and had great compliments to make about the pianos! You can look him up on social media, he's a performer who was traveling the west coast of the United States where he was giving concerts. Check him out!





Thanks to Peggy's son, Jasper Devereaux, for power washing the back steps of the lodge! They are no longer slick and slimy! THANK YOU!

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## Upcoming Calendar

## NOVEMBER:

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

### **Board of Trustees for 2024**

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### **Historian / Archivist**

Eric B Williams

### **Historians**

Liisa Penner

Arnie Hummasti

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### **Building-Ronovation Committee**

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Marvin Hautala  
Carole Lyngstad  
Madeline Matson  
Leila Collier  
Dirk Schulbach

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