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Vol 22 and No 4

July/August 2025

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:

☀️ **Happy Summer to You All!**

The **2025 Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival** is now a cherished memory—and what a wonderful weekend it was!

Our princesses, **Olivia Atkinson** and **Hannah Martin**, represented us with such grace and joy—we are so proud of them! 👑🌸

Eepi Ursin was an absolute delight to hear! Each set brought something fresh and unique, and her music truly added a magical touch to the festival atmosphere. 🎵✨

And of course... if you missed out on the **Rice Pudding and Fruit Soup**, well—you missed a true festival favorite! 😋

A huge thank you to our hardworking **Auxiliary**, who were busy baking, prepping, and serving not only for the festival but also for several memorials held at the hall. 💙 Your dedication means so much.


Now, after all the excitement, the Auxiliary will take a well-earned break until

Suomi School returns in **August**.


Join Us for a Special Summer Evening!

In **July**, we have the great honor of sponsoring a special performance by **Devina Boughton**, granddaughter of **Kristina Berney**.


 **Date:** Monday, July 14

 **Time:** 6:00–7:00 PM


Devina's presentation will be a beautiful blend of **history and music**, sharing stories and melodies that promise to inspire and entertain.

All are welcome—bring a friend and come enjoy this unique and meaningful evening with us! 

Restoration Committee Update

Our **Restoration Committee** is hard at work planning upcoming events, including a **potential Dinner, Auction & Fundraiser in October!** 

This is a big undertaking—and **we could use your help** in many forms! Whether it's donating time, talents, items for auction, or helping spread the word, every bit makes a difference.

As you know, **our building is in need of important repairs**, and fundraising is key to making that happen.  Every dollar raised will help us preserve this special place for future generations.

Interested in helping? Please reach out—we'd love to have you involved!

Exciting News from Suomi School!

We're thrilled to share that **Suomi School** has received a generous **\$2,000 grant from the Clatsop County Cultural Trust**, along with an **anonymous donation of \$1,000**—for a total of **\$3,000 in support!** 

With these funds, we've been able to **procure 14 beautiful natural wood Kanteles directly from Finland**, bringing authentic music and cultural enrichment to our students.

The remaining funds will be used to purchase a **storage cart for the**

instruments and much-needed **music supplies** for both **Suomi School** and lodge use.

This is such an exciting step forward for our program, and we are deeply grateful for these generous contributions that help us grow and preserve Finnish culture through music.

Kiitos! 🎵 ✨

Sincerely,

Leila Collier, Trustees President

503.791.1139

friendsofsuomihall@gmail.com or mlcollier62@gmail.com

Friends of Suomi Hall Picnic

August 10th, 11am-2pm

Cullaby Lake, picnic shelter right by the parking lot/Lindgren

Cabin

\$5 for parking per vehicle

Chicken and paper products provided

Bring your favorite potluck item

See you there!

Spotlight!

Lily Helligso



Lily Helligso is the Granddaughter of member Dea Helligso. She is currently a member of the Astoria Regatta Court 2025.

Päivää! My name is Lily Helligso and I am an incoming senior at Astoria High School.

My parents are Ryan and Brandi Helligso and I have an older brother Brandon. My grandparents are Larry and Dea Helligso. My maternal and paternal great and great great grandparents were members of Suomi Hall since as early as 1926. I was selected as Junior Miss Finland in 2016, since then I've enjoyed attending the Princess Teas and helping at the Suomi Summer Children's School. Some of my favorite Finnish family activities are attending the Scandinavian Festival and Coronation, baking pulla and prune tarts, especially eating them. I've been involved at Maddox Dance Studio since age 2 1/2 as well as the Little Ballet Theater and Astoria High School Pizzaz dance team, where we have taken first place at state in hip-hop for the last two years. I am currently the dance team captain for the 2025-2026 school year. I also am a 2025 Regatta Princess, representing Astoria.

This summer I will be working at Dutch Brothers. Stop in and say hi!

Auxiliary News

The Friends of Suomi Hall Auxiliary kept busy in April, May and June getting ready for the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival. Twelve auxiliary members renewed food handler cards when two Clatsop County Health Department workers visited the hall. Three Mondays were dedicated to making 100 dozen prune tarts for sale at the festival. These have been a hit since we added them to our rice and fruit soup offering several years ago. Thank you all for the teamwork that made this go smoothly. As well as a very busy festival booth, Suomi Hall was abuzz with activity also. Rice was cooking, prune tarts were baking and dedicated volunteers were transporting the same to the festival grounds. Thank you to all the many Suomi folk who helped put up and take down our booth. If you noticed the new booth banner, thanks go to auxiliary president, Anne, who also painted the charming Finnish countryside scenes behind the “windows”.

The auxiliary meets the first Monday of each month (with a few exceptions). We welcome you to join us at 10 AM for coffee and treats followed by a short meeting at 10:30.



Photos from Scandinavian Festival





Suomi Hall Restoration Kickoff

Planning underway

We're excited to share that planning has begun for a **Restoration Kickoff Dinner** to promote the revitalization of **Suomi Hall** and begin raising the essential funds needed to preserve this historic space.



Tentative Date: October



Location: Suomi Hall



Catering: We're exploring the option of having the dinner **catered by someone local**, bringing delicious Nordic-inspired cuisine to our event.

The evening will include a **raffle and auction of high-quality items**, with all proceeds going directly toward the restoration fund.

In addition, we've begun **searching for a qualified architect** who **specializes in historic restoration**. Our goal is to obtain **drawings and visual perspectives** of both the **exterior and potential interior**—capturing the vision of what Suomi Hall can become with community support and investment.

This is an exciting and necessary step toward preserving a beloved cultural landmark. We welcome input, assistance, and suggestions as this vision becomes reality!

If you're interested in **helping with the planning, donating auction items, or connecting us with restoration professionals**, please let us know—we'd love your involvement!

Lindgren Cabin Open For Visitors - Seeking Hosts



The historic Lindgren cabin is located near Cullaby Lake 89990 Hawkins Road, Warrenton, Oregon 97146.

Thanks to volunteers from Finlandia Foundation Columbia-Pacific Chapter and Friends of Suomi Hall, the cabin is open to the public on weekends during the summer months at no charge. (donations are accepted)

Every summer from Memorial Day to Labor Day we are looking for wonderful volunteers to open the cabin to the public. The cabin visitation hours are from approx. 11am to 3pm however if you can only volunteer for a couple of hours that would be great too!

The responsibilities of the hosts are:

- Unlock cabin, sauna & gates
- Open shutters (if they are closed)
- Remove and fold plastic coverings. Due to critter droppings wear gloves. Gloves can be found in
- plastic bins under the sink.

- Wipe off and sweep up critter droppings. Brooms, dustpans, a metal garbage can, and garbage bags
- are located inside the cabin. If needed, garbage bags can be disposed of by the bathrooms in the
- park. Please do not leave ANY food or drink debris in the cabin.
- There are several signs inside the cabin.
- Hang the open sign on the chain link fence.
- Place the bronze information sign to left of the cabin door entrance.
- Set the “Open 11-4” A-Frame sign on the easement. (place the hanging numbers over the 4 to change
- the closing time to what time you will be closing. ex. 11-3).
- Place the “Tervetuloa” sign inside in front of the large table or outside next to the cabin.
- Place the American flag and Finnish flag on each side of the gate in the chain link fence.
- In the plastic bins in the Loom Room there are handmade rugs that can be placed around the cabin
- floor or put on display.
- The long wooden donation bowl, small signage, info brochure, and visitor’s log, and pens are on the
- large table in the middle of the cabin. Make sure you sign the visitor’s log too! (If you are the first
- host of the season, please pull them out of the clear plastic tub in the loom room)
-

When you sign up you will receive an instruction sheet with the codes to open the cabin as well as instructions on where things are located. There are restrooms located near by.

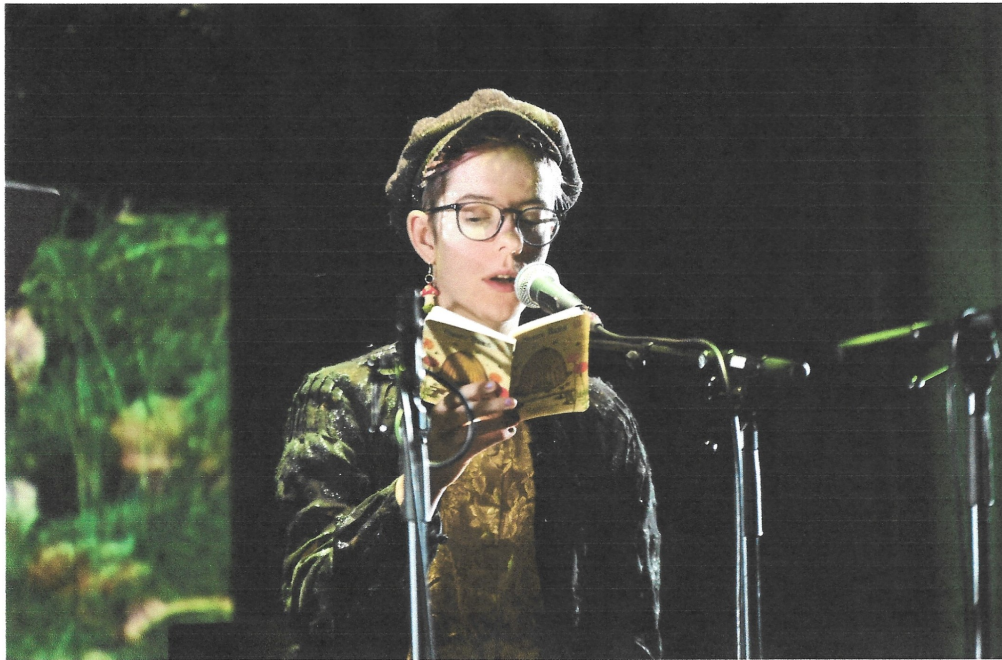
If you have any questions please email Greg Jacob: jacobgk@comcast.net, Warren Bechtolt: wbechtolt@gmail.com or Reneé Byrd: renee.byrd@comcast.net

Folk Music at Suomi Hall

FINNISH AMERICAN FOLK MUSIC PRESENTATION

SUOMI HALL JULY 14, 2025 6-7 p.m.

DEVINA BOUGHTON



Finnish American musician and researcher, Devina Boughton, will speak and perform on July 14, 2025 at Suomi Hall, 244 West Marine Drive in Astoria.

She will share community stories she has gathered as a researcher in Finland and the United States; in addition she will perform Finnish-American folk music on the trumpet and puusarvi (buckhorn), and in song.

No charge for admission; donations gladly accepted.

Nordic NW Midsummer Festival

Nordic NW had their annual Midsummer Festival on their grounds, and FFCCPC always has a booth, "Helsinki Cafe," serving makkara and potato salad. The Festival ran on the 27th and 28th of June. Decorating the Midsummer pole and making flower crowns, watching live music

and performers, playing games and making crafts, and indulging Nordic summer delicacies are features of the Festival. If you didn't make it this year, put it on your calendar for next year!



Book Review -

The Finnish Girl by Dennis Frahmman

By Arnie Hummasti

The Finnish Girl is a novel of family secrets and their consequences. The story revolves around Lempi Makinen Lahti, the Finnish girl of the title, and her family who emigrated from Finland to Wisconsin. Though the novel begins in 1983 with Danny, Lempi's 14 year old son, most of the story is told in flashbacks to the preceding decades.

Through old newspaper clippings and photographs he finds in the bottom of an old trunk, Danny pieces together the bittersweet history of his family: their mysteries, their joys, their conspiracies, their heroics, and the decisions which often lead to tragic outcomes.

The book in part, due to the careful research of the author, is historical fiction, as Lempi's personal milestones are juxtaposed with many important milestones of the 20th century. Lempi crusades against the war in Viet Nam and other social injustices. The elderly mother in the family faces deportation due the American red scare of the 50's. And a son of the family turns his back on America during the depression to emigrate to the Soviet Union and its promise of the good life, as did many Astorians at that time, including my father's family (except my father). A significant portion of the book focuses on the son's experience there. He discovers, as did my father's family, that the "land of milk and honey" is anything but. It's a powerful depiction of the brutality of Stalin's Soviet Union.

This is a well-crafted, often dark, story of a Finnish American immigrant family whose hope for the American dream threatens to become a nightmare. A series of revealed secrets weaves a web of deceit in this intense, poignant, poetic and melancholic tale of a Finnish family struggling to survive and thrive in a new land. It's well worth a read.

Though local book stores probably don't stock this title, they can order it for you, or you can find it on line.

Upcoming Calendar

JULY:

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

Monday, July 14, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

Monday, July 14, Entertainment with Devina Boughton, 6:00 PM Coffee, 7:00

Business Meeting

AUGUST:

Monday, August 4, NO Auxiliary Meeting

August 4-8, Suomi School 9:00AM - 12:00PM

August 10, noon, Friends of Suomi Hall Picnic, Cullaby Lake, first picnic area off the parking lot With all the playground equipment

Monday, August 11, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

SEPTEMBER:

Tuesday, September 2 Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Monday, September 8, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

Monday, September 8, Members Meeting with Guest Speaker Debbie Hazen, 6:00 PM Coffee, 7:00 Business Meeting

OCTOBER:

Monday, October 6, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Monday, October 13, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

Monday, October 13, Members Meeting, 6:00 PM Coffee, 7:00 Business Meeting

Saturday, October 18, Laksloda Luncheon

NOVEMBER:

Monday, November 3, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Business Meeting

Sunday, November 9, Members Meeting, Thanksgiving Potluck, 1:00 PM, 2:00 PM Business Meeting

Monday, November 10, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

TBA, Meet and greet with the new court and the princess committee

Friday, November 28, Sankta Lucia Festival, introduction of the 2026 court

DECEMBER:

Tuesday, December 1, Auxiliary Meeting, 10:00 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Business Meeting and a Cookie Exchange

Saturday, December 6, Finnish Independence Day, Astoria Nordic Heritage Park, 11am - 1pm

Sunday, December 7, Members Meeting, 1:00, followed by Pikku Joulu

Monday, December 8, Trustees Meeting, 9:30 AM

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