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Vol 22 and No 5

September/October 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:

🍁 Summer Wrap-Up & Fall Ahead 🍁

Summer is almost over, and fall is in the air! As we wrap up summer activities and get ready for school, I can't help but ask—where did the summer go? It's been a busy one!

✨ June was filled with festival excitement, followed by a quieter July at Suomi Hall. But August brought plenty of activity again!

🎓 Suomi School Year 4 was a huge success! We had 26 wonderful students and an incredible team of volunteers. Special thanks to Tami Stelzig and Peggy Nikkila for co-leading this amazing project with me. We're also grateful to Madeline Cummins for running games, our auxiliary for providing delicious snacks, and all of our student and adult helpers—it truly takes a “lodge” to make this program happen!

🎵 Our Suomi School students loved learning and playing our beautiful kanteles. Many thanks to the Clatsop County Cultural

Trust for supporting us, and to our anonymous donors for their generosity—not just for the kanteles but for Suomi School as a whole.

☀️ We also enjoyed our first joint picnic with the Columbia Pacific Chapter of the Finlandia Foundation. It was wonderful to connect, share food, fun, and music—and the weather couldn't have been better (though we were thankful for the covered picnic space!). Our Suomi School students performed, and we celebrated our very own Saara Matthews, recipient of the Columbia Pacific Chapter's *Sauna Bucket Award*—a well-deserved honor! (Check out photos later in this newsletter.)

🔨 Behind the scenes, our Trustees and Restoration Committee have been hard at work—updating Suomi Hall's insurance, planning for a possible fundraiser dinner/auction in March, and working on long-term restoration and repair goals. Many hands make light work, so if you'd like to get involved (especially with the March auction), please reach out to me or Eric Williams.

👑 Believe it or not, it's also time to start thinking about Festival 2026! That means selecting new princesses. If your child is interested in being a Junior Princess (ages 6–10) or a Senior Princess (grades 10–freshman year of college), please contact ChrisLynn Taylor.

ALSO, save the date for October 18! It's our Laksloda Luncheon and you sure don't want to miss that.

Be sure to read all the way to the end of this newsletter for important announcements and upcoming lodge events

Sincerely,

Leila Collier, Trustees President

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# Kirppitori or Finnish Flea Market in September!

News flash!!! The Suomi Hall Auxiliary will be hosting a quality “flea market” featuring antique, vintage and Nordic goods on Saturday, September 27th from 10 to 3 p.m. at Suomi Hall.

We envision an annual event raise funds for the Suomi Hall Building Restoration Fund. There is currently not an event like this in Astoria. Banquet tables will be rented out to vendors for \$30 in the main auditorium. Vendor applications will be available in August. The smaller part of the hall will be filled with tables of items donated to the Auxiliary for our sale!

We hope to feature tables of antiques, glassware, china, household, linens, arts and craft supplies, Nordic items, books/media, framed art and frames, collectibles, small furniture items, etc.

Donations of electronics, large furniture, baby items and toys, clothing, shoes, exercise equipment, hand crafted items, TV's, electronics, broken items and hazardous materials will NOT be accepted.

## How can you help?

- **SAVE** the date of September 27 to attend.
- **SPREAD** the word. Know anyone that might want to rent a table for antique, vintage, or Nordic goods in the main hall? Share this information with them.
- **DONATE** quality items. This is your opportunity to donate items that will be sold to benefit the Suomi Hall. This is an excellent time to “right size” your possessions. We will be collecting some items during the summer, but hope to receive most of the donations at Suomi Hall the week of September 22. Contact Lauri for any concerns or questions. A volunteer will be in touch.
- **VOLUNTEER** to help in general organization, pricing, day of sale help, media and marketing, and donation solicitation. This will be a fun event!

Email Lauri Serafin for questions, donations, applications at [lauriks@hotmail.com](mailto:lauriks@hotmail.com)

# 👩👩 JOULUMARKKINAT 👩👩

## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF FRIENDS OF SUOMI HALL

ON NOVEMBER 15, 2025 at Suomi Hall there is going to be a JOULUMARKKINAT – a Christmas themed Nordic Market, to be held at Suomi Hall.

This is similar to the Nordic Market that normally takes place in February at Suomi Hall, but this is an opportunity for vendors to sell Nordic themed gifts, treats and holiday decorations.

Before the general public is invited to rent a table, all members of Friends of Suomi Hall are being informed of this opportunity. Table rental will be \$30.00. We will do a great deal of advertising!

The Market will be from 10- 4 on Saturday the 15th of November. Set up will take place on Friday the 14th , and also on Saturday morning.

Please contact Katie Ryding soon if you are interested: [katieryding@gmail.com](mailto:katieryding@gmail.com). There will only be 20 tables available so time is of the essence.

## 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:** March, revised date



**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!

### ***Saara Matthews is the Sauna Bucket recipient***



The FFCPC (Finlandia Foundation Columbia Pacific Chapter) proudly presented the Sauna Bucket Award to **Saara Matthews** in recognition of her many years of dedicated volunteer work. Saara has served as a trustee of FOSH, contributed her time to both the Princess and Scholarship Committees, and made several generous donations to Suomi Hall.

Beyond that, she is co-president of the Astoria Scholarship Fund and can often be found volunteering at community events such as the annual Crab Feed and the Great Columbia Crossing. Her commitment and service have made a lasting impact, and this award is a well-deserved honor! 



## Auxiliary News

It will be a busy September and October. The Kirppitori is scheduled for September 27 and the Laksloda Luncheon will be October 18! You

won't want to miss either event. They will also start with Prune Tart making towards the end of October.

## **Book Review - By Arnie Hummasti**

### **Fins, Finns and Astorians**

#### **By Greg Jacob**

This concise and very readable book by one of our own members, Greg Jacob, is brimming with significant nuggets of Astoria history that all Astorians should know. It's "the story of a bygone era."

It touches on the very early history and development of the town, including its underbelly (the saloons, the brothels, the shanghaiing, the robberies, the killings, etc., primarily in the area on the waterfront known as "Swilltown").

The book also covers the considerable contributions made by the flood of Finnish immigrants into Astoria at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries (half the population of the town in 1900). There are chapters on the arrival of the Finns, on the development of Uniontown and the evolution of our lodge, and on the politics of those early Finns and how divisions between the "Church Finns" and "Socialist Finns" led to discord, arrests, boycotts, and possible arson.

A significant portion of the book focuses on gillnet salmon fishing and the history of the Astoria canneries, especially Union Cannery, which was



founded primarily by Finns in response to the low prices other canneries were offering fishermen for their catches. Union Fish was a cooperative owned by the fishermen.

Union Cannery used to be where the Cannery Pier Hotel is now. Greg's late brother, Robert Jacob, was the visionary who imagined and then realized the existence of the hotel. Since the author intended for the book to be available to guests of the hotel, he included a chapter on the development of Cannery Pier and all that it offers.

This is a nice little resource on the history and quirks of our town. It's well researched with numerous citations of source materials and is nicely illustrated with vintage photographs. I recommend it, not only for your own enjoyment but as a possible gift for out-of-town visitors. Though available through other sources, I suggest you get a signed copy from the author himself, our lodge brother, Greg.

## Friends of Suomi Hall Picnic





**Suomi School 2025**









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# Upcoming Calendar

## **SEPTEMBER:**

Monday, September 8, Restoration Committee, 8:30 AM

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

Saturday, September 27, 10-3, Kirppitori

## **OCTOBER:**

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

Saturday, October 11, Sami Bracelet Workshop (Contact Saara Matthews for information)

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

Saturday, November 15, 10-4, Joulumarkkinat

## **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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