



LEADING STAR LEDSTJÄRNAN

CVII EST. 1906 La Palma, California September 2013 Number 3 www.orderofruneberg.org

Thank you, Order of Runeberg!

With hard times falling on the timber industry for my husband, I made the decision to return to school and pursue a degree to become a Physical Therapist Assistant. This was a big decision as we also have three school-aged children. I found a program at Lane Community College located approximately two



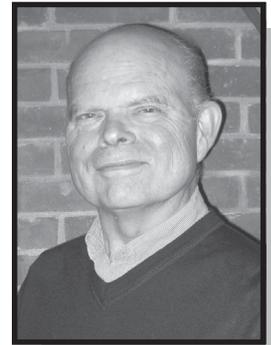
hours from our home. The course was very intense as I commuted weekly to attend all-day labs and completed hours of course work online. I am proud

to say that I graduated in June with honors. I could not enjoy my summer as I spent many more hours studying for the national licensing exam in July. I received the terrific news that I passed my exam by the end of the month. I am so excited to share that I began a job two weeks ago in my hometown working with pediatrics that need physical therapy services. I am working in both schools and homes to provide services for children ages zero to twenty-one.

I would like to express a heartfelt thank you as the recipient of this year's 2013 scholarship. I would also like to thank all of the lodge members who have contributed to the scholarship fund over the years. Receiving the scholarship helped me finish my schooling and allowed me to take the national exam. I shall be forever grateful.

Sincerely,
Heidi McCarthy
Coos Bay Lodge #126

International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message



Greetings to our members in Canada, Finland, and USA. I hope you all enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to the fall season, with its beautiful colors.

You may remember from the March 2012 issue of the *Leading Star* I had mentioned that news media had been talking about Finland's education system, specifically mentioning an article titled: "What Americans Keep Ignoring About Finland's School Success", in the December 29, 2011, issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* journal. Now, an article just published in September on CNBC's website titled "China's education plan ... from Finland's playbook" discusses changes China is adopting. From the CNBC article:

"The changes China is adopting may be less about making life easier on students and more about developing an education system along the lines of a consistent top performer: Finland" and "The Finnish education system puts less emphasis on testing and homework. Students

are steered toward creative activities and teachers are given wide latitude with assignments and curricula." With these changes, the CNBC article quotes Gary Beach (publisher emeritus of *CIO Magazine*): "China will jump in front in the global race to teach students the 'new' skills like collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking."

If you're interested in reading the CNBC article, it's at www.cnbc.com/id/101032516, and there is a link to it at our website, www.orderofruneberg.org.

Congratulations to Finland on the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the official activities of Finnish parliament! In September 1863, during the Russian regime, Emperor Aleksanteri II (Emperor of Russia, King of Poland, and

continued on page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE:



Scholarship Report.....	3
Genealogy Corner	4
Lodge News.....	7-11
Resolutions	12
Coat of Arms.....	14

Time to prepare for Convention

The 2014 Convention is less than a year away. (See the article on page 9.) One of the main business items of the Convention is the consideration of resolutions to the constitution and bylaws. These must be published in the *Leading Star* for two issues prior to the convention. So now is the time for the lodges to start working on resolutions to have them ready for publication. Also, delegates to the convention will need to be selected by each lodge.

Now is the time to submit a personal Christmas Greeting so that it can be published in the December *Leading Star*. Please submit your greeting by December 1.

Also, for all those applying for a scholarship in 2014, remember that your application must be received by April 30. Applications are on the website. (Article on page 3.)

—DH

International Order of Runeberg Supreme Board President's Message

continued from page 1

Grand Prince of Finland) opened the official activities of the parliament in Helsinki.

Mentioned previously, here are two items important enough to repeat for emphasis:

(1) The updated format of the *Leading Star* allows us to have the newspaper accessible to read and/or download from our website (you may read &/or print it.—The link is on the “IOR News, Events, Info” web page). This brings a great opportunity to all lodges. Knowing that our website pages are visited over 430 times per month (5,190 times in year 2012), this provides a free and easy opportunity to inform potential members exploring the Web for Finnish / Swede-Finn cultural information and activities. You/your lodge are strongly and eagerly encouraged to submit meetings information (pictures and/or text articles) to the *Leading Star*, enhancing the visibility of the lodge to a wider Internet audience

that may include perspective new members. — Don't forget to include contact information for your lodge.

(2) Each of our lodges has a page at the IOR website. — I encourage your lodge to take full advantage of this resource. In anticipation of potential new lodge members surfing the Internet for a local Finn-Swede cultural organization, it's very important to have current lodge information posted on your lodge's web page (such as meetings schedule, meetings locations, special activities, etc.). If your lodge would like information posted on your lodge's web page, email or call me with the information you'd like posted. My contact information is on our website, www.orderofruneberg.org, under “About Us, IOR Board Members.” For members of Lodge #101 (Seattle, WA) and Lodge #124 (Vancouver, BC), send your lodge information directly to Nils Holm for Lodge #101, or Shea Teixeira for Lodge #124.

Hope you all enjoy the fall season.

Stew Lyons



The **LEADING STAR** (ISSN No. 0744-7485) is published quarterly by the International Order of Runeberg for its members and others interested in the Order at 7682 Tracy Lane, La Palma, California 90623-1501.

The Leading Star / Ledstjärnan

Int'l. President: Stewart Lyons
Editors: Dale and Mary Lou Hjort

Subscriptions payable in advance

One Year, U.S. & Canada **\$15.00**
Overseas **\$20.00**

Resolutions, single column, per inch, \$5.00

Advertising rates available upon request.

Address all correspondence to:

Postmaster: Send changes of address to:

The Leading Star, Attn: Dale & Mary Lou Hjort

7682 Tracy Lane
La Palma, CA 90623-1501
Telephone/Fax: 714-739-0932
Email: d.mlhjort@juno.com

Correspondents: Information received by the first Friday of the quarterly month or as noted will be included in that quarter's issue.

To correct our listing of your address, fill in the requested information in the form below and send your old mailing label to:

Dale & Mary Lou Hjort
7682 Tracy Lane
La Palma, CA 90623-1501

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip _____

Lodge & Number: _____

Scholarship Donation Report

The International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund has received two generous donations.

Joanne Mamaril \$200.00

Western District, Circle #1
\$276.00

Joanne was a 2012 scholarship recipient. I will quote from the letter she sent to us.

"I would like to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude for your generosity. As one of the past, chosen students to receive the Order of Runeberg Scholarship, I am very pleased to tell you that I passed the written component of my Physiotherapy License Exam. I am able to work as a Physiotherapy Resident in a Long Care Facility. I am able to pursue my dreams because of your help and in return I am very pleased to donate \$200.00 to the O/R Scholarship Fund. I know there are lots of students that need help and it is a chance for me to return the favor." Joanne Mamaril

Perhaps, we all take for granted that recipients of our

Scholarship Fund are pleased to receive it. However, it is truly heartwarming to receive a follow-up letter such as this that has certainly made a difference in one student's life. Thank you, Joanne, for sharing your thoughts and your monetary kindness with your fellow members. Our Scholarship Program does make a difference!

Regarding the Western District, Circle #1 donation, there is an article by Nils Holm to explain this.

THANK YOU for these generous donations. We appreciate your support.

Please make your checks out to the International Order of Runeberg Scholarship Fund and send them to:

Janet Anderson,
Financial Secretary
6094 Myrtle Ave.
Eureka, CA 95503

Scholarship applications
MUST be received by APRIL 30,
2014.

Lorene Mara,
Scholarship Chairman

Report on the \$\$

Because of our aging and declining membership in the Order of Runeberg, I sent in an article to the *Leading Star*, published in the March 2012 issue. The article was requesting views of what should be done with the money in the Western District Circle #1 Treasury.

I had a 'small' response, however all agreed that donating the funds to the scholarship "kitty" was a good idea.

In the October 2004 issue of the *Leading Star*, Circle # 1 Treasury balance was \$229.81.

There was a donation from Coos Bay Lodge #126 of \$25.00 (in lieu of raffle donation). After doing the calculation (possibly on the high side?) and rounding, I came up with a final of \$276.00. This amount was sent to Janet Anderson (Financial Secretary) on August 6.

Nils Holm
Seattle Lodge #101

Letter to the Editors

Dear Editors,

The obituary for Lorena Volz in June's *Leading Star* reports that she was born in Au Sable, Michigan, and reached the venerable age of 107 1/2, a remarkable life span. June Pelo added a note about her cousin's family, which encouraged me to search for Lorena's ancestors in TALKO (a database of Swedish-speaking Finns' family trees developed by Hasse Nygård from data contributed by hundreds of family researchers).

Indeed, Lorena was born in Au Sable, Michigan, of Swedish-speaking Finns. Her father was born in Karleby and her mother in Pedersöre. Her husband Arthur was born Artur Adolf Karlsson Källström, who took the last name Spring in America. Artur was born in Karleby as well.

So she was born of "Swedish-speaking Finn" heritage, rather than "Finn and Swedish" which suggests that one parent was from Sweden and another from Finland.

This tiny detail can make a big difference to genealogists researching family trees, which is my favorite occupation. I'm often inspired by June Pelo's work.

She's very generous with assistance and has copious amounts of information about Swedish Finns.

Thanks, June!

Syrene Forsman

The Swedish Finn

Historical Society

Family Research volunteer

Genealogy Corner

Old Used Clothing

After I had been in the United States for a dozen and a half years, I discovered an American phenomenon—"Garage and Yard Sale." The business of selling used belongings was totally unfamiliar to me. I had difficulty in comprehending that here in this Promised Land people actually bought used rags, clothes, and junk. When I grew up in Finland after the war, people wore clothes until they were worn out and there were no more places to sew more patches on a garment. If one was lucky enough to be the oldest child, he always got the new clothes. I was so blessed because I was the oldest of three boys. After I had worn my clothes, there was seldom anything left of them. So my two younger brothers also got new clothes. The old clothes probably were burned up in the fireplace. Now when I think back, I wonder what happened to things our parents disposed of because at that time our village had no dumping place.

The first time I was exposed to second-hand goods was when my mother, Etel, came to live with me for several years during my study years. One evening when I came home she was so excited for me to see what she had found outside the door of the



June Pelo,
A Dedicated Genealogist

house where I lived. There on the table was a pile of children's clothing, neatly stacked. Sarcas- tically, I said to her, "Why did you pick up rubbish that some- one has thrown out?" But she said, "See how nice this clothing is." She picked up one garment after another and showed them to me. All were clean and du- rable. I was quite surprised at what I saw. I apologized for my curtness and ignorance. My mother wrapped the items in a big packet and sent them to her grandchildren. The clothing was welcomed.

Only after I had moved out into the northern part of New York state did I come to realize how widespread this phenomenon

was. I was very surprised by all of the garage and yard sales there are during the summer. So it is— one person's junk is another man's treasure. In addition to garage and yard sales, I found that other businesses also buy and sell used items. Among them are the Salvation Army, Goodwill and many consignment shops where one receives a percentage of the money when items are sold. It used to be that only the poor went to the Salvation Army to shop. No more. Now one sees nice cars parked outside the place. Inside the shop one sees well-dressed men and women who search for a bargain. Can it be a sign of the economic state of affairs?

The nearest city to where we live is Hudson. The city is known for its numerous antique shops. Every Wednesday when prices are dropped to half at the Salva- tion Army, one can see antique dealers fill their pickup trucks with wares that they later sell in their shops—with great profit—to people from New York City. Come and get it in a garage sale!

I remember when my mother came from Småbönders one summer to help my wife with a new addition to our family. One day my wife Bernice took my mother out to a garage and yard sale. My mother looked at what

was for sale. She said in her Terjärv dialect: “Junk—just junk!”

Through the years my wife developed a discriminating eye for the fine and reasonable things offered at the second-hand shops. Our sons can thank their mother for most of the furniture they have in their homes. The used cars that we drive are also her finds. Last week my wife called me in the afternoon and asked if I would please go out and buy a bag of apples at an apple orchard. She said she planned to bake some pies later in the evening. She didn't have time to go and buy the apples because she was on her way to a therapy session. That meant she was going to see if she could find anything special at the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

The sun was shining and the trees were in beautiful autumn colors as I started out to shop. I hopped into my Miata sports car and was on my way. The car was polished and shone in the sun as I flashed by on the road. In my

designer sunglasses and Mika Häkkinen cap on my head I was a sight to behold. When I arrived at the apple orchard, I stepped out of the car and stretched with dignity. Just then a young woman walked by and looked at me. She said, “You look good!” I answered, “Yes, I know it.”

After I picked up my bag of apples, I returned to my car. In front of me, with short slow steps, an old man walked with a bag of apples. He was clad in worn wrinkled clothes and shoes with an old gray hat on his head. I felt sorry for this miserable fellow. With a brisk step I went ahead of him. When I opened my car door, the old man went by. He stopped and in an approving voice said to me, “I think of myself when I see a man my age who drives a sports car. I said to my-

self, this wretched old man thinks he is in my league. When I drove out of the parking lot, I hit the brake and stopped. There before my eyes was the old man in a new Mercedes-Benz luxury car! On the way home I admitted that I was downhearted. I said to myself, “If I could be in the same league as that man in the Mercedes-Benz, then I wouldn't need to drive around in my used junk heap.”

When my wife came home that evening, she had her hands full of used items she had found at the Salvation Army, and she enthusiastically held up her latest finds. With a sarcastic voice, I said, “Why do you drag home junk that no one else wants? She looked at me with her Mona Lisa smile and said, “But dear, you know that was how I met you!” What could I say? My dear wife has good taste.

*Donald Vidjeskog
Norden 2 Dec. 2011
English translation
by June Pelo*



YARD SALE
GARGAGE SALE
FOR SALE FREE



YARD SALE FOR SALE





LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

On July 20, 2013, **Carolyn Nelson** welcomed some 25 of us out to her home on Clear Lake in Eatonville. Carolyn was back home after some wonderful sightseeing in the Scandinavian countries. She'll write and tell us about that in one the next issues of the *Leading Star*. Tacoma #106 members usually celebrate Midsummer out at Carolyn's in June; but it was, instead, forwarded into the month of July.

Those celebrating their anniversaries in July were **Gilbert and Rhea Linden**, 59th anniversary and **Ray and Sally Thompson**, 50th anniversary. Both couples joined us out at Carolyn's. Unable to join us were **Al and Drisilla Ramberg**, who have reached their 67th anniversary.

Instead of crowning Midsummer "Ladies", it was suggested to crown "Midsummer pojkar"—**Midsummer Boys!** Those picked were **Roy Cederberg** and **Gilbert Lin-**

den—both enjoying the coronation!

A trip around the lake was enjoyed by several members and our Captain this year was **Jim Ramsey**, who has enjoyed meeting our #106 Runeberg crowd.

An "85th birthday" card was sent to **Agnes Rand Warren** from Tacoma Lodge. Also **Roy Cederberg** received a special

"80th birthday" greeting in August.

Marita and Jim Agnew attended Marita's 60th High School Reunion, held at Panorama City in Lacey, WA, on Saturday, August 10, 2013. Out of the original 321 students from the Class of 1953, there were 125 present that day at Panorama City. Both Jim and Marita at-

continued on page 9



Jim and Marita at Marita's "60th" High School Reunion held at Panorama City

A very nice lunch was served.

Clear Lake at Mt. Rainier taken from Carolyn Nelson's home.

Runeberg Picnic July 20, 2013





LODGE NEWS



Order of Runeberg #106 members enjoying a beautiful summer day at Carolyn Nelson's home on Clear Lake July 20, 2013.

From left around table: Carol Britton, Jayne Ely, Lee Thompson, Marilyn Thompson, and Jan Forsman



Runeberg Picnic at Carolyn Nelson's

"Summer and all around Paradise on Clear Lake!"

Monica Mason, Tacoma #106 Secretary

Enjoying a relaxing day

*Out on Clear Lake
From left: Marta & Roy Cederberg, Roger Gustafson, and Gilbert Linden
Enjoying the sunshine and the company—and just relaxing*



From left: Elsie Thomson, Eileen Scott, Sally Thomson, and Carol Britton

"The Captain of the Ship," Jim Ramsey



Carolyn Nelson, our hostess "OUCH!" that hurt



LODGE NEWS



Lodge #106 Tacoma, Washington

continued from page 6

tended Olympia High School on Capitol Way. There was only one high school then. It was across the street from the Capitol Building, and the fountain was built and finished when Marita was a senior in 1953. Our O.R. member Marilyn (Johnson) Thompson also graduated from Olympia High in 1953. Jim

graduated from Olympia High in 1950. There were several I had not seen since 1953 who were present at the Panorama City dinner and reunion. There were some 91 who had passed away from our Class of 1953.

It's been a busy summer and the days are getting shorter. The five beautiful hanging baskets I

received from my daughter Karlyn for Mother's Day continue to bloom out there on our porch in several colours; and the hummingbirds enjoy coming to check them out. The moon was so huge and bright out there a week ago, I really thought we had forgotten to turn the porch light off.

September is just around the corner. School will be starting for the children here in our neighborhood; and Tacoma Lodge members have some special birthdays coming up real soon:

Sept. 8: Karlyn Andreasen
 Sept. 11: Susanne Edwards
 Sept. 14: John Sandstrom
 Sept. 16: Al Ramberg
 (90 years young!)

I've been thinking about new ideas for our lodge. How about a cute picture of yourself when you were a child? Let's think about the unusual and different dialects we have in our O.R. membership? Tell a little about yourself: where were you born? Write something about your background and sent it in to Dale and Mary Lou Hjort for the *Leading Star*. You have their address in every recent issue.

P.S. Write about your interests!

Submitted by *Marita Agnew*



"Brother and Sister Act"
"Nuts Gather here"
as the sign claims,
Marita Agnew and
Roger Gustafson



Jan Forsman at Carolyn
Nelson's home on Clear Lake



Out at Carolyn
Nelson's home
on Clear Lake
on July 20, 2013
"Midsummer
pojkar"

To the left:
Gilbert Linden
To the right:
Roy Cederberg

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Committee convenes to prepare for the August 15 and 16, 2014, International Order of Runeberg Convention!

Are you a loyal member of Lodge #124? Are you ready to participate? Are you a member of one of the other Order of Runeberg Lodges preparing to attend? Every member is invited—and yes, bring along a friend or two. It is Convention time 2014 and time to begin thinking and planning for your visit with us. A visit to Vancouver, British Columbia, is second to none. Next summer's event should be on everyone's calendar. It is never too early to get out those travel folders and do a little day dreaming. This past summer has been absolutely gorgeous in Vancouver—hot and dry with lots of cool breezes but very little, if any rain. We can't guarantee spectacular weather, but if the past is any indication, it should be a great summer next year too. Imagine—some of our temperatures this summer were in the high 20's and even the early 30's. (For our American friends, that is Celsius we are talking about!)

Are you a golfer? Burnaby has two beautiful golf courses, two great pitch-and-putt courses, and best of all, members who play golf. If you are ready for a round, let us know and perhaps we can help make some golf arrangements for you. Not into golf? Well, Vancouver has the world-famous Stanley Park—this year celebrating its 125th year. The park deserves a day of your time—beaches, aquarium, park drive, restaurants, picnic spots, totems—just to name a few things of interest there. A “hop-on-hop-off” bus will take you all around the park (approximately seven miles) if you do not want to drive around.

Hopefully, your imagination and enthusiasm are building. August 15 and 16 are reserved for the Convention business and activities, but do leave time for the touristy things before and after, as well.

On a more serious note, this is the time for all Lodges to have input as to what members wish to have available at the Convention. Resolutions to the constitution and bylaws should be discussed, as they must be published in the *Leading Star* two publications before the Convention. Do you or your Lodge have some interesting suggestions for the upcoming event? Contact any member of the Supreme Board or Lodge #124 with your ideas! We welcome any suggestions that will make this the best Convention you will attend in 2014!

Watch for more information to follow, and we look forward to seeing you at the Convention.

Fraternally,
Annabelle Kergan

604 291 7601 or iakergan@telus.net

International Order of Runeberg Lodges

CANADA

Lodge #124
Vancouver, BC

Lodge #130
New Westminster, BC

CALIFORNIA

Lodge #102
Eureka

Lodge #104
San Francisco

CONNECTICUT

Lodge #205
New Haven

MICHIGAN

Lodge #8
Dollar Bay

MONTANA

Lodge #105
Butte

OREGON

Lodge #126
North Bend/Coos Bay

WASHINGTON

Lodge #101
Seattle

Lodge #106
Tacoma



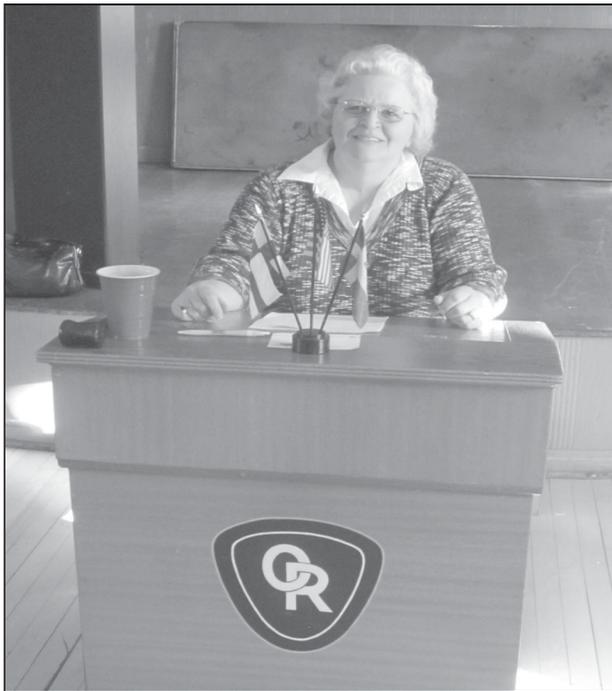
LODGE NEWS



Lodge #8 Dollar Bay, Michigan

Here are some photos from a meeting of the Dollar Bay Lodge on April 20, 2013.

The meeting included the initiation of new members and took place in Dollar Bay's own lodge building. Theresa Kokkonen is president of the Dollar Bay Lodge.



President Theresa Kokkonen of Dollar Bay, Michigan Lodge #8



From left: Dennis DeMarte, Dennis Schmitz, Bev Schmitz, Steve LeClaire (Marshall), and Karen Ziemnick (VP) behind lectern



From left: Dennis DeMarte, Dennis Schmitz, Bev Schmitz, Steve LeClaire (Marshall), and Renee Ozanich (Secretary) behind lectern



LODGE NEWS



From left: *Dennis DeMarte, Dennis Schmitz, Bev Schmitz, and Steve LeClaire (Marshall) behind lectern*



From left: *Dennis DeMarte, Chrissy Karry, Theresa Kokkonen, Bev Schmitz, and Dennis Schmitz*



From left: *Dennis DeMarte, Chrissy Karry, Theresa Kokkonen, Bev Schmitz, and Dennis Schmitz*

Citizen's initiative against mandatory Swedish

A citizen's initiative opposing mandatory Swedish-language classes in the Finnish school system gathered 50,000 signatures within six months and will proceed to Parliament for consideration.

By Finnish law, if a public initiative gathers 50,000 supporters within six months, it will be considered by Parliament. A citizen's initiative opposing mandatory Swedish-language classes in the Finnish school system has gathered 50,000 signatures since it was launched in early March.

The move was launched by Vapaa Kielivalinta, a group that supports freedom of language choice; the Finnish Alliance and the Finns Party Youth and the National Coalition Party Youth.

Their goal is to make Swedish optional, not mandatory as it is now in the school system. Finland is a bilingual country where the other official language is Swedish.

"I believe that this initiative will be taken seriously by Parliament, and it has the potential to succeed," says Sampo Terho, President of the Finnish Alliance and a Member of European Parliament.

From *The Finnish American Reporter*
—September 2013

Visit our website:
www.orderofruneberg.org

CURRENCY RATES

1 EUR = 1.3526 USD

1 USD = 0.7392 EUR

New York 09/21/13



Resolutions

Lodge #130 New Westminster, B.C., Canada

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of

Evelyn Dorothy Carlson

on June 19, 2013. She is survived by her husband Nils and sons, Lars, Tim, and James, and their respective families.

Evelyn was born in Leader, Saskatchewan, on January 12, 1931. She and Nils joined the Order of Runeberg in 1982, and Evelyn served as our Financial Secretary for almost 30 years.

A memorial service and reception in celebration of Evelyn's life was held at the Burquitlam Funeral Home, Coquitlam, B.C., on July 15, 2013.

Evelyn will be greatly missed by all her friends who knew her and will be remembered as a cheerful, hospitable, and true friend.

Respectfully,
Nancy Snickars



Eulogy for Evelyn Carlson

For nearly 30 years, Evelyn Carlson worked tirelessly as the financial secretary for the Runeberg Lodge #130 in British Columbia, Canada. She and her husband Nils looked forward to the lodge meetings and social events with great anticipation. Sadly, on June 19 of this year, the Runeberg community lost one of its long-time members.

Evelyn was very active in the local community, often volunteering at the local seniors centre and a church thrift shop. Evelyn was a proud member of the Red Hat Ladies Club and enjoyed the gatherings with her Red-hatted friends. She took great joy in having her granddaughters play dress-up in her many elaborate red hats. Evelyn also devoted countless hours to sewing and crocheting and there are many who will always remember the warm embrace of curling up under one of her many afghan blankets that she would give as gifts. As well, stepping into her and Nils' backyard in summertime was a feast for the eyes as she enjoyed gardening and always had the many flowerpots and planters bursting with colour and cheerfulness.

Evelyn was a remarkably honest and hardworking person. She was a person of great devotion and love. Above all, Evelyn believed in family, hard work, and always looking on the brighter side of things. She once said, "Life is funny. It is what it is. Just make the best of it."

Those are words of wisdom to be held dear. Thank you for being such a big part of our lives, Evelyn. We are all better for having had the opportunity to know you. We miss you dearly.

Submitted by *James Carlson*

More foreigners taking Finnish citizenship

Over 9,000 foreigners received Finnish citizenship in 2012, according to Statistics Finland. The figure is twice as many as last year and makes history as the most permanent foreign residents ever to be naturalized by the Finnish state.

Around a quarter of the people receiving Finnish citizenship were aged 14 or under. The vast majority of the new Finns are from countries outside the European Union and around 2,500 of the successful applicants originated from Russia.

Somali citizens were the second largest group of recipients of Finnish citizenship, with 610 taking up the blue and white, up from 100 last year.

Less Swedes changed their allegiance than earlier. Swedish people used to make up a notable portion of new citizens, but 2012 numbers were comparatively insignificant.

From *The Finnish American Reporter*
—June 2013

Finnair safest airline in world, survey says

Finnair has been ranked as the world's safest airline in the 2012 JACDEC Safety Index. This is the first time Finland's national carrier has topped the rankings.

After Finnair came Air New Zealand, Cathay Pacific Airways, Emirates, and Etihad.

"Of course we are pleased, as safety is the kind of thing where you can't compromise," said Finnair communications chief Arja Suominen. "We invest a lot in it. Finnair is the fifth oldest airline in the world, and experience helps in safety issues."

JACDEC bases Finnair's position on its accident record: the firm's last accident was in the 1960s. The company also has relatively few near misses and other incidents.

Taiwan-based China Airlines is ranked last out of the 60 airlines in the rankings. It has lost eight planes, killing 755 passengers, over the last 30 years.

Finnair is the only European airline in the top five. In last year's JACDEC rankings Finnair was ranked second.

From *The Finnish American Reporter*
–February 2013

People of Finland

Population: 5.4 million, 15.8 inhabitants per km² (40.5 per square mile)

Life expectancy: Men 76 years, women 83 years

Languages: Official languages are Finnish (spoken by 91%) and Swedish (5.4%). Sámi is the mother tongue of about 1,700 people, members of the indigenous Sámi people of northern Lapland

Religion: Christianity; 79.9 % Lutheran and about 1.1% Orthodox. In practice society is fairly secularised

From *this is FINLAND on the Internet*

Society & Economy in Finland

Key features: High standard of education, social security and healthcare, all financed by the state GDP per capita: 33,618 euros (2010)

Main exports: Electrotechnical goods, metal products, machinery, transport equipment, wood and paper products, chemicals

Main imports: Raw materials, investment goods, energy, consumer goods (for example, cars and textiles)

Currency unit: Euro

From *this is FINLAND on the Internet*

Niinistö, Obama set to meet in Stockholm



Prime Minister of Denmark Helle Thorning-Schmidt, President Sauli Niinistö, U.S. President Barack Obama, Prime Minister of Sweden Fredrik Reinfeldt, Prime Minister of Norway Jens Stoltenberg, and Prime Minister of Iceland Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson in Stockholm before the dinner. Photo: Lehtikuva

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö met with his US counterpart Barack Obama as part of a summit with Nordic leaders in Stockholm on September 4.

Niinistö told Yle (news agency) he was pleased to receive the invitation, and that he hoped to discuss global developments with Obama.

The two met in conjunction with a working dinner hosted by Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt. The gathering is aimed at reinforcing the partnership between the US and the Nordic countries to meet the challenges of the future, according to a statement from Niinistö's office.

Issues on the agenda included foreign-policy cooperation, advancing economic growth and combating climate change.

From *The Finnish American Reporter*
–September 2013

Please submit all
news, resolutions, and articles by
November 24
for publication in the December
Leading Star

Coat of Arms

By Maunu Harmo, former president of Finnish Society of Heraldry



Photo: **Laura Waris**

The following is a brief description of Finland's national coat of arms, its symbolism and history. The account is based on the official blazon and the most widely approved explanation.

When King Gustav I of Sweden (died 1560) gave his son John the title of duke of Finland in 1556, the territory also received its own coat of arms, which was probably approved by the king in 1557, although as far as we know Duke John never used it. In addition to national emblems, this coat of arms included two other symbols referring to northern and southern Finland, in actual fact the areas of Satakunta and Varsinais Suomi (Finland Proper). These two symbols were later retained in the arms of these two provinces.

After ascending the Swedish throne, King John III adopted the title of "Grand Duke of Finland and Karelia" in the year 1581. It was probably at this time or a little later that Finland received a second coat of arms, which is somewhat like the present one. This coat of arms is generally thought to have been modeled on a shield sculpted for the tombstone of King Gustav I at the Uppsala Cathedral (completed

1591). This monument was designed during the reign of John's elder brother, Erik XIV, who was king from 1560 to 1568, but it was only completed some thirty years later during John's reign. The shield was probably designed by the Dutch artist Willem Boyen, who served under both Gustav I and Erik XIV.

There is no way to know whether Finland's second coat of arms was purely the product of Willem Boyen's own imagination or whether it was based on Erik XIV's wishes or some other unknown historical tradition. It is known, however, that Erik XIV was himself interested in heraldry. This matter has been the subject of considerable academic debate among scholars and laymen.

At any rate, the general consensus has been that the symbol of the lion is derived from the arms of the Folkung family, which are included in the royal arms of Sweden. The two swords were borrowed from the Karelian coat of arms, which was publicly displayed for the first known time on a banner at the funeral of King Gustav I in 1560.

The placing of the curved Russian sabre beneath the lion's paws

is undoubtedly a reflection of the political situation at this time. Sweden and Russia were almost constantly at war, and the Swedes made use of this propaganda device to imply that they had the upper hand over their enemies. The nine roses are decorative, although they have falsely been interpreted as referring to Finland's nine historical provinces. It is worth noting that the number of roses has varied over the centuries.

When Finland gained independence in 1917, the "lions arms" became the coat of arms of the new nation. Before this it had served as the common symbol for all the Swedish territory to the east of the Gulf of Bothnia; and from 1809 to 1917 it served as the coat of arms for the Grand Duchy of Finland, which was under Russian rule during this period.

The Finnish coat of arms appears on the state flag, official seals, coins, banknotes and postage stamps. On the President's car it takes the place of an ordinary registration plate.

It was not until 1978 that legislation was passed concerning Finland's coat of arms. This legislation gives the official blazon and prohibits the sale of the national coat of arms, subject to fine.

The national coat of arms displays a crowned lion standing on a red field. The lion holds a raised sword in its right gauntleted fore leg and is trampling a curved sabre. The lion, the crown and the sword and sabre handles are gold, as are the gauntlet joints. The blades and the gauntlet are silver. The field is adorned by nine silver roses.

Last updated March 2011 from *this is FINLAND*

A Touching Story All Women Will Adore!

The Bottle of Wine

For all of us who are married, were married, wish you were married, or wish you weren't married, this is something to smile about the next time you see a bottle of wine:

Sally was driving home from one of her business trips in Northern Arizona when she saw an elderly Navajo woman walking on the side of the road.

As the trip was a long and quiet one, she stopped the car and asked the Navajo woman if she would like a ride.

With a silent nod of thanks, the woman got into the car.

Resuming the journey, Sally tried in vain to make a bit of small talk with the Navajo woman. The old woman just sat silently, looking intently at everything she saw, studying every little detail, until she noticed a brown bag on the seat next to Sally.

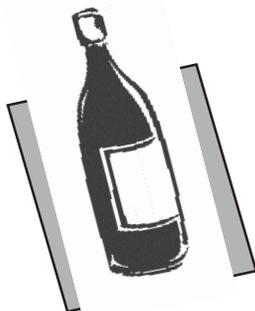
"What in bag?" asked the old woman.

Sally looked down at the brown bag and said, "It's a bottle of wine. I got it for my husband."

The Navajo woman was silent for another moment or two. Then speaking with the quiet wisdom of an elder, she said:

"Good trade!"

Submitted in 2013
by *Monica Carlson-Mason*
1963 graduate of Olympia
(WA) High School
and member of
Tacoma Lodge #106



A Poem for the Class of 1963, Olympia (Washington) High School

Included in the Memory Book for the Class of 1963, it was written by one of the classmates, Rusty Johnson, for their 50th Class Reunion held this past month of 2013:

"The Class of 1963"

I wonder now,
Just where and how
This old, I got to be.

The years that passed
Went very fast
For the Class of '63.

Loves won and lost—
Each had its cost—
A toll on you and me.

Some good, some bad,
Some made us mad,
For the Class of 1963.

Most lived, some died,
Some mourned and cried,
Some never meant to be.

A few found riches
And some dug ditches
In the Class of '63.

We all look back.
Some point in time,
At what we could not see.

What bird would sing,
What faith would bring,
For the Class of '63.

THE LEADING STAR

Dale & Mary Lou Hjort
7682 Tracy Lane
La Palma, CA 90623-1501

Address Service Requested

Celebrate the Magic of Christmas

with a personal Christmas Greeting . . . in the *Leading Star*

Christmas is approaching.

Christmas greetings maybe sent to other IOR members and your friends through the media of the *Leading Star* at the cost of \$5.00 per column inch (minimum). Please write your greeting in this form and mail it to your *Leading Star* editors. You will be billed; or if you are submitting your name and lodge only, please include your \$5.00 check with the form. Thank you,

Mail to: Leading Star

Attn: Dale Hjort
7682 Tracy Lane
La Palma, CA 90623

OR

E-Mail: d.mlhjort@juno.com
Fax: 714-739-0932
Telephone: 714-739-0932

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____
Zip: _____
Greeting: _____

