



Iltatähti

Evening Star



Finnish Heritage House

Officers

President: Jacqueline Harjula (207) 975-1476

Vice – President: Reggie Montgomery

Clerk/Secretary: Mariann Ahola

Treasurer: Edna Montgomery

Newsletter Editor: Reggie Montgomery

Send newsletter articles to regimon@roadrunner.com

Trustees

Fred Webel (April 2020)

Kathleen Anderson (April 2020)

Steve Gifford (January 2021)

Anne Little (January 2021)

Kirsti Fish (January 2021)

Building Committee

Chairman: Neil Harjula

Finnish Foreign Correspondent

Alex Anttila

Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomaston, ME 04858

Juhannus

Juhannus (Midsummer Day)
Midsummer in Finland ~ Big in Finland



Saturday between June 20 and June 26

Juhannus is a celebration in Finland of the Summer Solstice and of the feast of St. John. Like a medieval holiday, people celebrate at the lake shores where they build bonfires and dance all night. Since this is the longest day of the year, special late performances are held at open-air theaters in many towns. There are also dances at hotels.

Many customs are remnants of pagan times. In earlier times, the bonfire was supposed to reveal the future. Birch tree branches are brought into the homes to ensure future happiness. Even buses and office buildings are adorned with birch branches. On the Åland Islands, tall poles are decorated with flowers and leaves and supper tables are decorated with birch and garlands of flowers. The church made the festival St. John's Day, but the celebration has more pagan overtones than Christian ones. As Finland's Flag Day, Juhannus is also a national holiday.

CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!

HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

Your name will be removed if you are more than two years overdue. We will send a notice when your membership has been expired for nine months. Newsletters will stop one year after expiration.





Corona Virus

As everyone is aware, the corona virus has disrupted the world. We, at the Finnish Heritage House are not getting any special treatment. All of our activities are on hold until further notice.

The Finnish language lessons scheduled for this June have been cancelled.

Cooking lessons have also been cancelled for June 6. This will be rescheduled for next year.

Kantele lessons and rehearsals have been put on hold until it is deemed safe to have group gatherings again.

“Suomalaiset Jouset” hopes to be able to perform at Irene Vaino’s funeral service when it is rescheduled.

We are in hopes that we will be able to open the Finnish Heritage House again, on Saturdays in mid-July. Look for the “OPEN” flag.

Recipe Box: Finnish Blueberry Yogurt Pie Mustikkapiiras



This is a really easy blueberry pie to make. Plus, it is a refreshing pie to have during the summer season. If you plan to have a barbecue or a summer party, you could make this pie the night before. The pie is great cold but you can serve it warm as well.

Finnish Blueberry Yogurt Pie - Mustikkapiiras

So, let's get started.

PIE SHELL

Ingredients:

3/4 cup butter (softened)

3/4 cup sugar

2 eggs

1 cup unbleached white flour

1/2 teaspoon. baking powder

Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.

2. Butter and flour a 9 or 10-inch pie pan.

3. Beat 3/4 cup sugar and softened butter until the mixture is smooth and creamy with an electric mixer. Add the egg and blend well.

4) Mix into the wet ingredients the baking powder. You might want to switch from the electric mixer to a wooden spoon.

5. Stir in flour, 1/2 cup at a time to form a soft dough.

6. Butter pie pan. Dust the pie pan generously with flour.

7. With flour-dusted fingers pat the sticky dough into the bottom of the prepared baking dish. Push the dough up to cover the sides of the pan and create a raised edge of dough around the dish.

8. Put the pie pan in the refrigerator to cool down while making the blueberry filling.

FILLING

Ingredients:

2 eggs

3 tablespoons of sugar

1 cup of plain yogurt (vanilla yogurt optional)

1 freshly squeezed lemon

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

2 cups of blueberries, fresh or frozen

Directions:

1. Mix the eggs, sugar, yogurt, lemon juice and vanilla extract with a wooden spoon in a large bowl until smooth.

2. Remove cold pie pan from the refrigerator

3. Place the 2 cups of blueberries into the cold pie shell.

4. Gently pour in the filling so the berries are coated and evenly distributed.

5. Bake in the preheated 350 degrees F oven. Bake the pie for 50 to 60 minutes, until the crust is browned and the custard has set.

6. Chill well.

The blueberry pie can be served warm or cold. Also, the pie can be served plain or with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream. A nice cup of coffee goes well with this too.



Where In Knox County Is Arvo?

Arvo was cruising the highways and byways of Knox County recently and found himself on the following roads. Help Arvo find his way by identifying the location of the roads.

Example - Kiskila Lane - Cushing

1. Laukka Lane
2. Harjula Lane
3. Ilvonen Lane
4. Kallio Cove Road
5. Saima Lane

Computer Corner / June 2020

The COVID 19 Pandemic has significantly impacted our lives and will change the way we live and interact. For the younger generations the use of the internet to communicate is natural. For those of us of a certain age the loss of social contact is harder to accept. Nevertheless, the use of electronic communication has become more important for all of us, and the likes of Facebook and ZOOM are becoming routine. Please stay connected with your Finnish Heritage House and FinnAm Society friends via telephone, and also by e-mail and or Facetime.

Our FHH website gets regular visitors each month, and provides good information about FHH, Finland & Finnish Americans. It includes a link to our presence on Facebook. Our Facebook page attracts a significant number of visitors and comments. If you have not looked at either recently please do so and recommend the sites to your friends and neighbors. They provide a way to keep the Finnish American community connected.

Suggestions and comments regarding content are welcomed. Please let us hear from FHH members regarding additional ways to promote Finnish Heritage & Culture via the internet.

The URL addresses for both follow:

FHH website:

<http://www.finnheritage.org>

FHH Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Finnish-Heritage-House-111062928972026/>



Above, the FHH sauna float, back a few years ago at the Lobster Festival parade. Below, Bill Johnson taking pictures and some sauna enthusiasts riding the float.

Do you recognize any of them?





A Look Back...

Steve Gifford has been collecting memories of the Finnish-American community in the midcoast since 1975. The following memories recall the Finns involvement in the granite industry.

“My father worked for Booth Brothers’ Granite Works at Long Cove during the spring and summer to pay off the debt he’d accumulated during the fall and winter when he’d leave the family and work in the Maine woods north of Bangor.”

Toivo Hakala

“There were four boarding houses that stick in my memory: two at Long Cove for 250 men, one at Clarks Island for 350 men and one at Wildcat (Willardsville) for 200 men. At Long Cove it seemed that there were always two or three ships waiting to be loaded with paving blocks. Every pay day peddler Leino appeared in front of the company store with his assortment of wares offering everything from “soup to nuts”.

Aune Matson Bragdon

“Because of things like silicosis (stone cutters consumption), arthritis, and the toll of years of hard physical labor on the body many granite workers were worn-out in their forties.”

“As I recall they were paid per paving block and often got cut from the flying chips as they cut the paving into shape. They worked outside at a small bench about waist high that was filled with sand to cushion the stones.”

Charles Heino

“As a child I grew up on the beautiful George’s River Road and near supertime I would watch as the paving cutters from Clark’s Island drove home from work. It seemed like a never ending line of cars heading for Thomaston, Rockland, Warren and points further away.”

Eleanor Nelson Dorr

“Albert Putansu and all the boys, except Ben, worked at the Hocking Granite Quarry at Clark’s Island.”

Lempi Hill Johnson

“The Boston boat docked at the foot of Tillson’s Avenue in Rockland and while walking up to Main Street I stopped by Bicknell Manufacturing to buy the tools for the granite trade.”

Bjaerne Peterson

“My grandfather, William Hill, was injured in a fall in the 1950s that ended his granite days.”

Scott Hodgkins

“My father, Wilho Hyvarinen started his granite days at about the age of fifteen at either Long Cove or Wild Cat, or maybe both. My family moved to Portland during World War II as my father was employed at the shipyard. He returned to the area after the war and worked as a foreman at the Hocking quarry. He died at that quarry in 1951, age 41.”

Gary Hyvarinen

“The economy of the St. George peninsula during the second half of the 19th century was based on granite and when the quarrymen went on strike against the Granite Manufacturers’ Association in 1890, the owners quickly brought in Finns to break the strike.”

Albert Smalley

“I believe my father Peter Hill was involved with the quarry at Clarks Island while they were living in Ash Point. I think it was blasting work as later during the 1930s when we lived in Rockville he was asked to blast rocks in a road construction project.”

Joyce Hill Withee

*If you have any memories of the Finnish-American community that you would be willing to share please contact Steve Gifford via Email at gifford7tree@gmail.com or Telephone at 273-2877. Kiitos.



Greetings from Oulu, Finland – it's Alex Anttila, Finnish Foreign Correspondent of the Finnish Heritage House and a genealogist.

I first contacted the FHH in 2016 and with their great help I found my American relatives, the Andersons. Now I'm back at genealogy and asking for your help. I've learned a lot about the Andersons of South Thomaston, ME but I believe there are still living distant cousins to find. I'm writing an Anttila family book and would love to hear new lores and stories. These people were children of brothers, Isaac Anderson and Oskari Anttila. Oskari never emigrated to the US but some of his sons did. Oskari Anttila was my great-great-grandfather and Isaac was his brother. If you know any of the descendants or ARE a descendant of any of these people, please contact me via Facebook private message or e-mail ~ anttilan.alex@gmail.com. I also added their spouses and children if known.

Isaac & Rosa Anderson's children:

JULIUS ANSELM ANDERSON (d. 1965)

Wife: Alma Anderson Ahola

Children: Aina Emilia 1907-1981 (Husband: Emery Howard), Andrew J. (b. 1905), Lempi Maria 1909-1950 (Husband: Oscar Clay), Walter J., Julius William (b. 1918), Fred John 1911-1994 (Wife: Virginia Childs) & Annie AMELIA ANDERSON HALL (d. 1962)

Husband: John Hall

ALINA MARIA ANDERSON AHO (d. 1973)

Husband: Anselm Aho

Oskari Anttila's children:

FRED ANDERSON (d. 1944)

Wife: Jenny Marie Harjula Anderson

WILHARD/ARTHUR ANDERSON (death date unknown, b. 1891 in Finland)

Other names:

AMELIA ELIZABETH (1916-1975)

Parents: John and Hilja Anderson

Siblings: SELMA & AILI M. ANDERSON

Parents: Joseph and Selma Anderson

A big thanks to you in advance!

Alex Anttila

Anne & David Little's new sauna



Anne grew up with a sauna and did not enjoy it. However, after a trip to Finland with David they began thinking of building their own. Last fall David built this sauna complete with a Harvia stove from Finland as Anne's Christmas present. They currently use the sauna every other day and find it is the perfect way to relax. Anne's advice to anyone thinking of building a sauna is, "Go for it as you will not regret it".





Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 66 ~ Summer/Kesä 2020



Irene Terttu Vaino Whittet, a long-time member of the Finnish Heritage House, the Finn-Am Society of Mid-coastal Maine, and the Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Rockland, ME, died on February 16, 2020, in Rockport, ME. She was born in 1929 in Salmi, Finland, to respected schoolteachers Niilo and Darja Kiirikki. Her family was forced out of their home in Karelia by the Russians during World War II, only able to take a few possessions. Irene was happy to save her doll in her backpack, but not much else. Returning home after the war, both their home and the schoolhouse had been burned.

After the unexpected death of her parents, the 21-year-old Irene helped to support her three siblings. In 1959, Irene met and married civil engineer and Finnish army veteran Edmund Vaino of Tartu, Estonia, in Stockholm, Sweden. They emigrated to New York with their son, Jaan, and daughter Helene was born soon after. The Vaino family lived in the Finnish community in Quincy, MA for many years. They summered in St. George, where Irene moved after Edmund's death in 1991.

Irene held a special place in the hearts of the Finnish-American community, especially the kantele group *Suomalaiset Jouset* (Finnish Strings). She faithfully attended the weekly rehearsals, demonstrated the dance *Raatikoon* at our performances, and beautifully sang *To A Wild Rose* in Finnish. That song had been sung at her baptism. What an exciting event it was for Irene when Finnish kantele player Ida Elina performed in a concert sponsored by FHH and they sang that song together! She also helped the kantele group with the proper pronunciation of the words to the Finnish songs they played. Irene especially enjoyed traveling with the kantele group, both in state and out-of-state to put on a concert and then teach workshops on playing her beloved stringed instrument.

Irene also very much enjoyed attending the monthly meetings of the Finn-Am Society, with a potluck meal and a program. Her famous dish for those meals was a Turnip Casserole (*Lanttulaatikko*) with sausage. There were never any leftovers, as the members loved her Finnish cooking.



Arnold Marcellus Esancy, May 5, 1929 to February 4, 2020

Arnold, although not a Finn, supported our local Finnish groups for many years to honor the memory of his Finnish wife, Gladys Wuori Esancy. He was born in Rockland, one of ten children, and graduated from Union High School in 1947. After graduation, Arnold served in the U.S Air Force as an Aircraft Machinist. Following his service in the Air Force, he worked as a machine operator, as a machinist, and then was employed as a detail draftsman at General Electric in Lynn, MA, in the small aircraft jet engine division.

Returning to midcoast Maine, he first worked as a toolmaker for Bicknell MFG. and then in various positions in production and maintenance at Marine Colloids. In 1962, Arnold began his 23-year career with Sylvania Electric Co. in Waldoboro, as a machinist and then as a draftsman who coordinated all drafting operations for the plant.

He and Gladys enjoyed spending time in Florida and at their camp in Hope. He was a member of the Waldoboro Methodist Church, the Waldoboro Lions Club, the Finn-Am Society, the Finnish Heritage House, the mid-coast Writers Roundtable, and a 30-year volunteer for the Knox-Lincoln County Soil Conservation District.

He is survived by a brother and a sister, a stepson, William Leppanen, a step-grandson Eric Leppanen and two step-great-grandchildren. In addition to his family, he enjoyed shuffleboard, genealogy, writing, camping, woodworking, antique automobiles, and gardening.

Arnold was financially astute, and as a member of the finance committee for the Finnish Congregational Church, made some wise recommendations on our investments. He was also very generous, and donated the chair lift to the church that our older members very much appreciate. The plaque reads: "Given to the glory of God and his wife, Gladys Wuori Esancy and the Leppanen family." We were fortunate that he embraced our Finnish heritage and culture.



Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 66 ~ Summer/Kesä 2020



“Chief” Arthur Thomas Kiskila died on March 12, 2020, in Portland, ME. He was born in Rockland on September 19, 1945 to John and Evelyn Simmons Kiskila. After graduating from Georges Valley High School in 1964, he joined the U.S. Army and served on active duty in Pyeongtaek, South Korea. Following his honorable discharge, he worked for a year at Prock Marine and two years at Marine Colloids. He then found employment at the Maine State Prison in 1969, and ended his career there as Deputy Warden.

After a 25-year courtship, Art married the “love of his life” Susan C. Bodman at their Cushing home in 1999. Always active in town affairs, Art became the Director of Emergency Management for Cushing and served in that capacity for 48 years. He also served as the Town Constable for 20 years and most notable as the Chief of the Cushing Fire Department for 31 years.

He was a member of the Thomaston Masonic Lodge, the Shriners, the American Legion, the Elks, and the Scottish Rites and York Rites Freemasonry organizations. He and Susan faithfully attended the meetings of the Finn-Am Society of Mid-Coastal Maine, and also the Finnish Congregational Church. It was especially nice to see their young grandson, Brandon, join them in the church pew. The only time they missed a church service was once a year when they had a big birthday party for their pet dog!

Art also served as a Deputy Sheriff and a Court Officer for Knox County, and with the Rockland Police Department. He delivered flowers for a local florist and medications for a local pharmacy, making friends wherever he went. With Susan, he was a regular at the Rockland McDonald’s afternoon “coffee clan.”

Art is survived by his wife, Susan, three sisters, a nephew, and three step-grandchildren.

Walter A. Anderson, a long-time member of the Finnish Heritage House, died at home on December 22, 2019. He was born in Thomaston on May 3, 1934, the son of Albert and Marion Rokes Anderson. He attended Thomaston Academy and completed his GED while serving in the U.S. Air Force. For many years Walter drove trucks for Fox & Ginn, and later worked as a maintenance engineer for the Rockland and Camden Post Offices.

Walter had a large collection of miniature trucks, tractors, and cars. To display his collection, he built large cases with sliding doors. This was truly his hobby, and on every trip he took, he purchased a few more miniatures for himself and his grandchildren. He loved to travel and to watch the history channels, especially NASCAR and war documentaries.

He was predeceased by his wife, Sally in 2015. He and Sally were faithful attendees at the Finnish Congregational Church, and he especially loved to have coffee and *pannukakku* (Finnish oven pancakes) at the coffee hour after church. If you visit the church, you will notice the lovely green shrubs that he and Sally planted on either side of the front steps leading into the church. They were good friends of many of our church members.

Walter is survived by many family members: two sons, two daughters, a step-daughter, his sister, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. In closing, this is one of Walt’s famous quotes: “Okay. I’ve got to let you go; the race is back on.” He didn’t want to miss a second of any NASCAR race!



Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomaston, ME 04858

Please Join Us!

FINNSH HERITAGE HOUSE P.O. BOX 293 – South Thomaston, ME 04858

Name _____ Renewal ____ New ____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I'd like to receive the FHH newsletter by E-mail _____ U.S. Mail _____

I'd like to get involved in the following activity/activities or committee(s)

Exhibits _____ Fund Raisers/ Luncheons etc. _____. Building Maintenance _____ Docent _____

Newsletter _____ Grants _____ Music/Dance _____ Children's Activities _____ Library _____

Other (Please specify) _____

Annual Member (\$10) _____ 5 Year Member (\$45) _____ Gift \$ _____

Make checks payable to Finnish Heritage House and send to P.O. Box 293 South Thomaston, ME 04858

Is it time to renew your membership? Check your address label.