



# Iltatähti

*Evening Star*



## Finnish Heritage House

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**Finnish Heritage House**

P.O. Box 293

South Thomaston, ME 04858

*(Elections pending)*

## Juhannus; June 26, 2021



Juhannus is the largest traditional summer celebration in Finland. Long days and midnight sun are beloved in Nordic countries, and this is the time to celebrate the longest and the brightest day of the year and the real beginning of the summer season.

Finnish "Nightless night" as it is also called, is occupied by many beliefs and magical stories. This is the night when witches, fairies, and elves come to the human world to tease them and predict their future. There are lots of old traditions for this holiday that are still followed. One such tradition is building the 'kokko' which is a huge bonfire, usually placed near the water.

One more tradition is to decorate houses and doorways with birch trees and flowers. In the past people used to decorate their cattle as well for good milk production. In the east of the country the midsummer celebration used to be called the celebration of Ukko, the God of Thunder. He was the main god in pagan times, as the rain and the harvest mostly were overseen by him. Nowadays, midsummer celebrations are a combination of fire and water, traditional folk music and songs, dancing, and just having fun.

In most places, unfortunately Juhannus celebrations have been cancelled for this year.

## The Finnish Heritage House is Open

The Finnish Heritage House (FHH) is open! We opened May 15, for the 2021 season. The tori has a great selection of Finnish crafts, books, CDs and some food items. This year we have added some Finnish candy to our wares. The Bake sale as always has pulla, doughnuts, cookies, fudge and sometimes some special items. FHH is open from 9:00 am until noon every Saturday until mid-December. Stop in and have a cup of coffee and some socializing.



## Recipe Box

### VISPIPUURO (Berry Porridge)



- 2 c. fresh or frozen cranberries or lingonberries
- 3 c. water
- 1 c. sugar, more or less, according to taste
- 1/3 c. farina

Put cranberries and water into a saucepan and boil berries until all are popped and the juice is a deep red color. Strain, reserving the juice. Add 1 cup sugar, 1/3 cup farina and cook over low heat until farina has thickened the mixture. Stir to keep from sticking to the bottom of the pan, about 15 minutes. Pour into a large bowl, or leave in pan if it is a type that will withstand beaters. Cool to room temperature. Place bowl in a pan of cold water and beat with electric beaters until pink and fluffy, changing water as it warms, about 15 to 20 minutes.

Vispipuuro is served with half and half or heavy cream poured over the top. It is a popular summer dessert, as well as a traditional food over the holiday season.

## “A Conversation With Karl Marlantes”



*Finnish Author Karl Marlantes*

The Finnish Heritage House will host Karl Marlantes on June 15 at 3:00 pm at Jura Hall, located below the Finnish Congregational Church on Rte. 131, 1/2 mile south of Rte. 1

South Thomaston, Maine

Karl will discuss his latest book and answer questions from the audience. His most recent book, “Deep River”, is a novel about a Finnish family’s immigration and settlement in the United States. It is a story that will resonate with anyone having Finnish Heritage. He has also written two books about the Vietnam experience, “Matterhorn” (2010), and “What it is Like to go to War” (2011).

There will be a raffle with the prize being an autographed copy of his book “Deep River”. He will also autograph any books brought by the audience.

Finnish pulla (coffee bread, nisua) and coffee will be served.

The library at FHH has a copy of “Deep River” to loan.



## Lorraine Lans Jeffries

October 27, 1947 - April 12, 2021

STONINGTON - Lorraine Jeffries, age 73, of Stonington, died unexpectedly at home on April 12, 2021. She was born on October 27, 1947, in Norwood, MA., the daughter of Ahti and Genevieve (Venskus) Lans. She graduated from Walpole High in 1965, and earned a LPN degree from the Peabody School in Norwood in 1967. However, her real calling was to be an artist. She attended Boston University School of Visual Art from 1976-1979; then she studied at the Fenway Studios in Boston. She then went to the Henry Hensche Cape School of Art in Provincetown. She was well known for her landscapes, still life paintings, and portraits. She even did some sculptures, mostly of animals. In 1986, she married Ben E. Jeffries and lived in Chelsea. They moved to Stonington in 1992, where she had her studio. They enjoyed sailing and bird hunting. They traveled to Finland, Russia and Lithuania and the US Southwest. Lorraine was creative, witty and a great cook. She loved her dogs, Cassiopea, Lulu and Sailor. She was a free spirit, always wanting to learn new things. Recently, she joined a Finnish language group led by Marja-Leena Bailey. She was a member of Finnish Heritage House. She won many awards and had two of her paintings on the front cover of the Finnish American Reporter. She is survived by her sister, Sandra Lorusso-Newhall of Portsmouth, NH and Norfolk, MA; her brother, Donald A Lans and his spouse, Marian, of East Falmouth, MA; her stepsons, Stephen B. Jeffries of Boston, and David R. Jeffries of San Francisco; a niece and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Ben, in 2019.



*Lorraine with Sailor*



*Self portrait*





## Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 70 ~ Summer/Kesä 2021

### Personal Connections to “Deep River”

Vietnam War was the war of my generation and stories about this period in our history have always attracted my attention. I first became aware of Karl Marlantes’s writing because of his 2010 book titled “Matterhorn” which told the powerful story of a Marine officer’s combat experiences in Vietnam. This led me to Karl Marlantes’s latest novel, “Deep River” which made an immediate and lasting connection to my psyche. This story of Finns making the momentous decision to leave their home country to find better opportunities in a new land resonated with me, as it would with any American that has Finnish immigrant heritage dating to very early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The three Koski siblings, as described in the novel “Deep River”, left Finland in the early 1900s, significantly because of Russian oppression. My Grandfather, Karl August Wuorinen, left Finland in 1901, at age 32, to avoid conscription into the Russian Army. My mother, Elli Sivia Wuorinen, and my Grandmother, Alma Toivonen, followed him to America in 1909. My mother, who had been born in 1899, and the Koski siblings were contemporaries in my mind. They most certainly would have shared some common immigrant experiences.

The Koski siblings settled in the Columbia River area of Oregon during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. My mother’s family settled in the Fitchburg, Massachusetts area. Their immigrant struggles, while not identical were difficult, nevertheless. More perceived commonality in my mind.

In 1945, my older sister married a WWII Navy veteran who was a native Oregonian and she started a new life in western Oregon south of the Columbia River not far from where the Koski siblings settled. Her family eventually connected with the logging industry whose early beginnings were so vividly described in “Deep River”. Yet another personal connection to the novel’s story for me.

My mother and father came to Maine in 1939 and at that time purchased an old Warren farmstead from a long time Maine family named Crawford. As I researched this family’s history, I discovered that of nine Crawford siblings born in Nobleboro, Maine in the 1840’s, six had removed to northern California. The lumbering skills they had learned from their father in Maine enabled them to become a successful part of the burgeoning lumbering industry in northern California and southern Oregon. The very same lumbering industry that had such a dramatic impact on the Koski siblings. Another coincidental connection. Life’s stories.... Worth reading... Worth retelling. Fredrick Webel

### WANTED - Marimekko Fabric

Our source for Marimekko fabric is no longer available. We thought last year was the last time we would be able to have aprons made of Marimekko fabric available for sale in the Tori. However, due to the generosity of a friend who donated a piece of Marimekko fabric, we are able to once again have some of these aprons for sale in the Tori. If anyone has a piece of Marimekko fabric that they would be willing to sell or donate, please contact Steve Gifford by email at [gifford7tree@gmail.com](mailto:gifford7tree@gmail.com) or telephone at 207-273-2877. Any size would be welcome as smaller pieces can be combined with a larger piece to make an apron. Kiitos.

### Finnish Language Via Zoom

Finnish Heritage House canceled the Finnish language classes in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. However, the core of devoted language students were not to be deterred and suggested to our instructor, Marja-Leena Bailey, that the classes be conducted via Zoom. After several trial sessions in February which went well, plans were made for four sessions on alternate Saturday mornings in March and April. Sixteen students participated in the Saturday classes and even the most skeptical were very pleased with the success. Classes would begin at 10:30 am and end at 1:00 pm. “Kahvi aika” proved to be a popular segment of the class. This time students often had to describe what they were eating and drinking. Students taking part in this series of lessons included: Steven Chayer, Beverly Bartlett, Matt Shaw, Kate Kokko, Sue and Scott Edwards, Jackie Harjula, Irene Rochwarg, Lorraine Jeffries, Steve and Mary Gifford, Marilyn Pukkila, Diane Laing, Alexandra Weiss, Sandra and Erikka Rowland. One exciting aspect of this Zoom class that it attracted several students new to our classes. The Finnish language program is now under review to see if the instruction will continue via Zoom, return to in-person instruction or perhaps a hybrid program. Those people interested should stay tuned for an update expected in late summer or early fall. Puhutko suomea?



## Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 70 ~ Summer/Kesä 2021

### Once Again Making Music Together

The kantele ensemble “Suomalaiset Jouset” gathered for a rehearsal for the first time in over a year on Friday, May 7th. Everyone was glad to be together once again, even if socially distanced and masked. Members present were Kay Dodge, Jackie McLain, Nancy Bridges, Peggy Smist, Gail Mayberry, Mary Gifford, Brenda Barrett, Deborah Haviland, Jackie Harjula, John and Tina Nims and director Celia Jones. The kantele is the Finnish national folk instrument and the group enjoys sharing Finnish music with the midcoast community, having presented more than 70 concerts over the past decade. The current rehearsal schedule calls for meeting every other Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in Jura Hall beneath the Finnish Church. Finnish Heritage House has instruments to loan and you do not need to be able to read music. If you are interested in joining this ensemble please contact either Steve Gifford at 273-2877 or email at [gifford7tree@gmail.com](mailto:gifford7tree@gmail.com) or Celia Jones at 594-4506 or email at [cjones9995@roadrunner.com](mailto:cjones9995@roadrunner.com).



### **CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL! HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?**

**If the date on the label is in red, it means your subscription has 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.**

### *Notes From the Past*

Can you imagine Rockland, Owl’s Head, Ash Point, Spruce Head covered by a magnificent forest broken only by a few insignificant inroads made by lumbering parties?

Picture Thomaston, in 1754, a fort near the site of the original Montpelier; a blockhouse at the foot of what is now Wadsworth Street; a log schoolhouse on the bank between; and a few deserted log-houses farther up toward Oyster River.

Did you ever hear of the Upper, Middle and Lower Trails? They were used by the Indians coming from the Head of the Bay westward to the St. Georges River and the Wassaweskeag.

Did you know that the settlement of Lincoln was formed where Thomaston is now?

Can you picture yourself surrounded by 30 to 40 canoes holding five and six Indians apiece, all yelling at the top of their lungs?

And how about a tax in 1760 demanding 20 cents from each of the ablest settlers.

Such accounts and many more are found in Eaton’s History of Thomaston, Rockland and South Thomaston, now available at a certificate price for one more week, through March 31, from the Thomaston Historical Society.

*This article is copied from a newspaper of unknown origin or date.*





## Newsletter of the Finnish Heritage House No. 70 ~ Summer/Kesä 2021

### A Generous Donation

Our new friend Mylese See has donated a beautiful original Finnish skirt and vest to FHH. It was from her mother, Ruth Mylese Tuomi, who was from Finland.

Her parents danced for Finnish relief activities at Madison Square Gardens and other locations in New York and New Jersey during the 1930s and early 1940s.



*Outside on the porch on a nice sunny day in May.*



Mylese is Finnish American and lives in Boothbay Harbor, ME.



*In the display area at FHH*

### FINNISH HERITAGE HOUSE PRESENTS FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL LECTURERS OF THE YEAR

**SOILE ANDERSON AND ELEANOR OSTMAN**

**JUNE 26, 2021, 3:00 pm**



*Soile Anderson*

*Eleanor Ostman*

Soile and Eleanor will co-present aspects of Finnish foodways. Authors of the book *Celebrations to Remember: Exceptional Party Décor and Fabulous Food*, they will also demonstrate how to prepare two Finnish foods: Piirakka and Salmon Chowder. Attendees will be able to sample these delicious creations.

A native of Finland, Soile settled in St. Paul, Minnesota, and brought to the US her experience as a successful restaurateur and spa hotel owner in eastern Finland. In America, she founded The Deco Restaurant, Taste of Scandinavia bakeries and the Finnish Bistro, where she served President Obama, the King and Queen of Norway, and the Dalai Lama. She has also been featured in the *Martha Stewart Living* magazine, and in 2017, was inducted into the Scandinavian American Hall of Fame.

Eleanor, also a Finn, was born and went to school in Hibbing, Minnesota. At Macalaster College in St. Paul she studied journalism, and was food writer for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*. Her popular 30-year "Tested Recipes" column was the basis for her cookbooks *Always on Sunday* and *Always on Sunday Revisited*.

She and Soile met in the 1980s, and a lifelong friendship developed, which has blossomed into joint food demonstrations and talks, including at FinnFest USA in 2019. FHH is pleased to sponsor this presentation.

This delightful program will be held at the Thomaston Federated Church, 8 Hyler Street in Thomaston. In order to plan on a count for purchasing the ingredients for the recipes, please RSVP to FHH President Jackie Harjula at 207-975-1476 or email her at [jackielee207@gmail.com](mailto:jackielee207@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.



## NOTICE!!!

Finn-Am Society of Mid-coast Maine is having a Potluck luncheon meeting. Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. The first one in more than a year. Bring something yummy and join us for a great social gathering.

## FINNPOSIUM

Finlandia Foundation National has been sponsoring many online chats, webinars, musical and other presentations related to Finland and Finnish culture in the United States. The internet allows FFN to create a kind of virtual symposium like that enjoyed by the ancient Greeks: a post-banquet program of music, conversation, dancing and refreshments. Presently, we are planning to follow this schedule of events:

**TUESDAYS:** Webinars

**THURSDAYS:** In Conversation and My American Dream

**SATURDAYS:** Concerts and entertainment programs



*Philip Bailey*

Of special interest is the subject of the first FFN Conversation Series. Philip Bailey is the son of our wonderful Finnish language teacher, Marja-Leena Bailey. The interview was conducted by Maria Voltaine, FFN's Operations Manager. Philip works at NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab, on the Flight Systems team, specifically on the robotic arm of the Mars 2020 Rover, "Perseverance." He discusses what it is like to work at NASA, and dives deep into the groundbreaking work on Mars. He also shares personal anecdotes from his life with a Finnish mother and a New England American father.

To view this and other Finnposium presentations on the internet, simply go to [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search "Finnposium". There you will find 27 available presentations. There is no charge for participation.



*Frank Eld with his "Finnebago" at FHH*



*Frank and Jackie Harjula*

Finlandia Foundation National 2018 Performer of the Year Frank Eld recently returned to Maine for a visit, drawn by our friendly Finnish community, the beautiful scenery, and our delicious seafood, especially lobsters. It was a delight to have him travel from Idaho in his "Finnebago" to see us. You may remember his presentation sponsored by FHH and Finn-Am three years ago. He spoke about the Art of Finnish Log Construction, and brought wood and tools to demonstrate the technique. Prior to his Maine visit, he stopped to spend time with the Finnish community in Massachusetts. We hope he revisits us many more times.

### A Well-Deserved Retirement

*By Jacqueline Harjula*

Jim Kurtti, the editor-in-chief of the absolute best newspaper for Finns in North America and beyond, the Finnish American Reporter, has retired after many years of dedicating himself to ensure that Finnish history and culture remain relevant on this side of the Atlantic. He has traveled from Michigan to New England several times, and has featured our local Finnish groups, including "Suomalaiset Jouset" in the newspaper. He has also attended FinnFunn weekend several times.

His vision for the future is the continuation of the collection and preservation of Finnish records from all across the country in the Finnish American Heritage Center and Historical Archives. To honor his service as editor and visionary, you may wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the newspaper or to the Heritage Center. Send your donation to FAR, PO Box 479, Hancock, MI 49930-9978, and specify how you want it to be used.

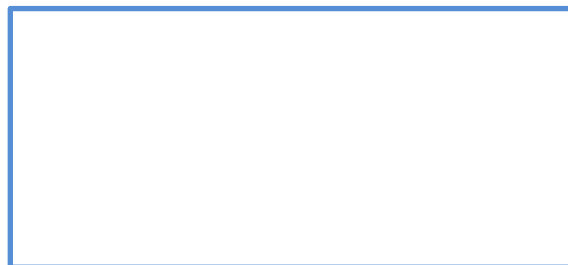
We New England Finns consider it a privilege to have had a wonderful friendship with Jim, and we wish him many joys in his retirement. We heard that spending time with grandchildren would be at the top of his list!

### *It's a Girl!*

Our Finnish Foreign Correspondent, Alex Anttila and his wife, Mimosa have announced the birth of a healthy baby girl. She was born on May 5, 2021. She weighed in at 6 lb. 13 oz. and was 19 inches long.



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



Please Join Us!

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

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Newsletter \_\_\_\_\_ Grants \_\_\_\_\_ Music/Dance \_\_\_\_\_ Children's Activities \_\_\_\_\_ Library \_\_\_\_\_

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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.***