

Iltatahti

The Evening Star



The Finnish Heritage House and
FinnAm Society of Mid-Coast Maine Newsletter

No.73 – Spring / Kevät 2022

Eepi Ursin Concert



Jackie Harjula and Eepi Ursin

Finlandia Foundation National's 2022 Performer of the Year, award-winning jazz vocalist Eepi Ursin, will perform in Thomaston, Maine on June 17th, 2022 at the Federated Church. She is being sponsored by the Finnish Heritage House of South Thomaston.

Originally from Finland, now based in New York City, the singer-songwriter is a versatile artist who has performed as a soloist as well as with various types of groups, from A Cappella ensembles to symphony orchestras.

Eepi offers pop, jazz and dance music programs. She has 40 recordings, of which five are platinum or gold albums. Eepi's fourth solo album, *Speechless*, was released in February of 2022.

Eepi has performed all over the world, with acclaimed artists such as American trumpeter Leroy Jones and Spirit of New Orleans and has taken the stage at the Shanghai Concert Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, Pori Jazz Festival and more.

Her performance will be at 7:00 pm at the Federated Church of Thomaston at 8 Hyler St, Thomaston, ME. Coffee and Finnish Pulla will be served. There will be a per person admission charge of \$5.00 at the door.

Annual St Urho Day Celebration Members of the Finn-Am Society and The Finnish Heritage House celebrated St Urho's Day in March



Aimo Little Sanfilippo



Cousins - Jackie, Dot Jackson, Eileen Partanen



Finn-Am President Linda Grant

St. Urho's Day was celebrated during the March FinnAm meeting. Traditionally, St. Urho's Day is a Finnish folk-holiday celebrated on March 16th to honor the legend of St. Urho who was fabled to have chased the grasshoppers (or frogs) out of ancient

>St Urho's continued on page # 3

Annual Raffle

The prize is a beautiful hand-woven rag rug once again donated by our good friend “Tooty” Wilson of Lovell, Maine. *These raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00*



This year there will also be a second raffle with a beautiful Memory Globe as it's prize. *These raffle tickets are 50¢ each or 5 for \$2.00*



The winning tickets will be drawn and announced this September 17th during the Annual Finn Funn Weekend.

Tickets for the raffle are on sale at Finnish Heritage House. The winner does not need be present to win. **Good Luck!**

Starting May 21 **The Finnish Heritage House will be open** on Saturday mornings from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Our Tori has a great selection of Finnish crafts and books. The bake shop always has pulla and other treats

Come by for a visit, enjoy some coffee, and some conversation.

The News from MAY 12, 1921

A FINNISH CHURCH
To Be Erected On St. George Road
&

Other News Concerning This Thrifty Colony.

The Finnish colony, which resides mainly on the St. George road in South Thomaston, is about to build a house of worship on land bought from John Anderson, and to this end will bring from Waldoboro material which composed the Booth Bros' boarding house in Waldoboro. The building has already been torn down, and the lumber will be shipped by rail the last of this week. The new church will be 26x40 feet, seating about 50 persons, and will cost between \$1500 and \$2000. Aid is being given by the Congregational Missionary Society. It will be ready for occupancy late in the fall. The Finnish people have been holding services in the St. Georges River schoolhouse Sundays and Thursdays. Rev. L. P. Miettinen, the pastor, preaches also in Waldoboro, Warren and Long Cove.

* * * *

John Hall has sold his property on the St. George road, including farming tools, furniture and stock, to John Niemi, who already occupies it. This farm was formerly known as the Marshall place and was the first in that locality to be taken up by Finnish people, 25 years ago. The terms of the sale are said, to have been \$7500. Mr. Hall is at present residing on the Isaac Anderson place at Warren Highlands.

Mrs. L. P. Miettinen, wife of the pastor, has entered Hebron Sanitarium. She is greatly, missed by the Finnish people, and her singing at the church services has been greatly enjoyed.

* * * *

John Hall made a business trip to Bangor last Monday.

* * * *

Erick Harjula's milk customers are being served from a new Dodge Bros, truck, which he bought through Fred C. Dyers' agency. It's the classiest milk "wagon" hereabouts. Matt L. Toorpakka also has a new car, an Overland bought from George M. Simmons.

* * * *

April Finn-Am Society Meeting



Aimee Little Sanfilippo



Kirsti Fish



New centerpiece



Joan Harju, Glona Dennison, Scott Hoogins



Gary Aho, Arthur Fish



Kauko Wilson, Ron Anderson, Kathleen Anderson

During the April meeting, we learned about Easter traditions in Finland. On Palm Sunday, children in Finland decorate willow branches and dress up like witches. The children go door-to-door with their twigs, reciting, “Viron, varron, tuoreeks, terveeks, tulevaks, vuodeks; vista palkha mulle.” In translation: I wave a twig for a fresh and healthy year ahead; a twig for you, a treat for me!) Children leave a twig in exchange for a little treat, like an Easter egg, chocolate, or coin. During the meeting, we decorated similar willow branches with brightly colored feathers, tape, and ribbon.

Other Finnish Easter traditions include bonfires, planting grass seeds, serving lamb for dinner, and making mammi (a dark brown pudding made from rye flour) and pasha (a creamy pudding made from cheese curd).

May Finn-Am Society Meeting

The May meeting focused on Vappu, the Finnish version of May Day. Vappu was originally a Labor Day event but has evolved to be a carnival-style festival that celebrates the coming of spring. Celebrations in Finland take place outdoors in streets, squares, and parks and involve huge picnics, fun costumes, balloons and streamers. Everyone wears a graduation cap. Traditional Vappu foods are tippalepia (funnel cake) and munkki (doughnuts); the traditional beverage is sima (mead).

Attendees were given a Vappu goody-bag that included balloons, streamers, party blowers, doughnut holes, funnel cake, and paper graduation caps so they could hold their own Vappu celebration.

> St Urho’s continued from page #1

Finland, saving the grape crops and the jobs of the vineyard workers. The day is marked by wearing green and purple and represented with grapes and grasshoppers.

After reading about the details of St. Urho’s Day, FinnAm members worked together by tables and were “tested” on their knowledge of St. Urho’s Day trivia. For each correct answer, the team earned a leaping frog. Tables took turns channeling their “inner Urho,” flipping their frogs into the “ocean,” a tablecloth that was laid out on the floor. The table with the most frogs in the water was crowned the Kings and Queens of St. Urho’s Day.



Scott Hoogins, Cynthia Cremon, Bob Cremon



Bob Cremon



Dessert with grasshoppers



Edna

Kosti Ruohamaa Exhibit

Penobscot Marine Museum
May 27 to October 16, 2022

”Kosti Ruohamaa: the Maine Assignments” showcases the Finnish-American photojournalist, a native of Rockland, and his works that feature Maine scenes. FHH has many of his magazine covers in our archives, and he was featured in one of our summer exhibits. The affinity he felt with people and places shows in his photographs. It helped him capture the varied folkways in a rapidly changing world, especially that of rural old New England.

This exhibit explores the ways that people in Maine lived, worked, celebrated, pursued recreation, and communicated. Kosti approached his assignments with a photo essay in mind – telling a story through a series of photographs. To gain more insight into the man and his photographs, visit the museum at 2 Church Street in Searsport. They are open seven days a week.

FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL BOARD MEETING, APRIL 2, 2022

By Jacqueline Harjula

After an uneventful flight to Phoenix, AZ on April 1st, it was a joy to get together in person with all but two of our 18 FFN Board Members, some with their spouses. Because of Covid, we had only met over Zoom for two years. We traditionally meet twice a year in locations where we have Chapters. FFN has 58 Chapters all over the US.

We held our April meeting on the campus of the University of Arizona, and our members approved the many committee reports. As a member of the Grants Committee, it was gratifying to have awarded \$125,000 in grant money to many deserving applicants. The grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$600. I’m also part of the Nominating Committee, and we presented the names of three potential board members, with two elected to fill the two vacant positions. Our Communications Manager, Kath Usitalo, listed the assignments for the articles that will be in our upcoming FFN Spring Magazine. Be watching for it!

As a member of Finnish Heritage House, you should be receiving your free copy of our twice-a-year FFN Magazine. Let me know if you aren’t getting it. We are a Chapter of the national group, with many benefits

that go with that membership. In addition to receiving the magazine, we often host the FFN Performer of the Year. Please note the article in this newsletter about the upcoming concert in Thomaston featuring 2022 POY Eeppi Ursin.

After a day-long business meeting, we met with the members of the two Arizona Chapters, from Phoenix and Tucson. The reception featured delicious appetizers and desserts, speeches from visiting dignitaries, and a performance by Eeppi Ursin.

Since my flight back home didn’t leave until Sunday at 10:30 pm, I was fortunate to have CT friends who spend the winter in Sun City pick me up for a tour of the area and a visit to the Musical Instrument Museum. What a fascinating place! I could have spent three days there and still not have seen everything. After picking fresh oranges and grapefruit in their back yard, I was dropped off at the airport for my return trip. It’s a privilege to represent FHH as part of this national group.

Finnish Lessons Update

Marja-Leena Bailey, **Finnish Heritage House** Finnish language teacher, has made the decision to divide her time between the United States and Finland. Marja-Leena recently secured an apartment in her hometown Kuopio, Finland. Her plan is to spend July, August and September in Finland and return to the United States in October. However, before she leaves for the summer, she will teach a language class in June online via Zoom. The class will meet once a week for an hour and a half beginning on June 7th. The cost for the four sessions will be \$50.00. After returning to the United States in October she will offer another class. A decision will be made in the Fall based on the state of the Covid pandemic as to whether to hold the class in person or remotely. If you would like more information about the language classes or to sign-up for the June class call Marja-Leena at Telephone #1-978-761-1102 or email baileysaarinen@gmail.com.

THE RECIPE BOX

ICED OATMEAL RHUBARB COOKIES

Hands-On Time 20 min. **Total Time** 1 hr.

¾ cup unsalted butter, softened

1 cup packed brown sugar

1 egg

½ tsp. vanilla

1 cup all-purpose flour

½ tsp. baking soda

½ tsp. ground cinnamon

¼ tsp. salt

1 ½ cups chopped fresh rhubarb

1 ½ cups regular rolled oats

1 cup powdered sugar

2 tbsp. milk or lemon juice

1 drop liquid red food coloring (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Line two cookie sheets with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl beat butter, brown sugar, egg, and vanilla until smooth.
3. In a medium bowl combine flour, soda, cinnamon, and salt. Add rhubarb, toss to combine. Stir flour mixture and oats into butter mixture.
4. Drop ¼ cup mounds of dough 5 inches apart on prepared cookie sheets. Press lightly with fingers.
5. Bake 15 to 18 minutes (rotate pan from front to back after 10 minutes) or until edges brown. Let cool on cookie sheet for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. Repeat with remaining dough.
6. In a small bowl combine powdered sugar and milk, stir until smooth. If desired, add food coloring for a faint pink color. Spread icing on cooled cookies. Makes 16 cookies.

EACH COOKIE 200 cal, 10 g. fat 35 mg chol, 85 mg sodium, 27 g carb, 15 g. sugars, 2 g pro.

Thank You Edna.



Did You Know

There are exactly 187,888 lakes (larger than 500 m²) and 179,584 islands within the territory of Finland. Both are world records.

Finnish athletes have won more Summer Olympic medals per capita than any other nation. As of 2012, Finland had won in total 302 Summer Olympic medals (including 101 gold medals) for a population of only 5.4 million. That is an average of 55.9 medals (18.7 gold medals) per million people. Finland is only second to Norway for the number of Winter Olympic medals per capita (28.8 medals/million).

The Finns are the world's biggest coffee drinkers, gulping down no less than 12 kg of the black substance annually, twice more than the Italians, three times more than the Americans, and four times more than the Brits.

The prior president of Finland, Tarja Halonen, is a woman, as are 12 of the 20 government ministers.



American dream house



Finnish dream house



boredpanda.com

Oma maa mansikka vaan ei mustikkaa

Translation: Only strawberries in one's homeland, not blackberries

Meaning: A person who lives most of their time abroad will come back asking for only those things which can't be found there instead of appreciating what they've had all along.

CALENDAR

June

17 th	Eepi Ursin Concert	7:00 pm
18 th	Finn-Am Potluck	12:00 noon
21 st	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
25 th	Juhannus	

July

16 th	FinnAm Potluck	12:00 noon
19 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm

August

16 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
20 th	Finn-Am Potluck	12:00 noon

September

17 th	Finn-Am Potluck	12:00 pm
20 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm

October

15 th	Finn-Am Potluck	12:00 pm
18 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
28-30 th	Finn Fun Weekend in Troy, NH	

The Finnish Heritage House

172 St. George Road / State Route 131, P. O. Box 293, South Thomaston, Maine 04858

Website: www.finnheritage.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/Finnish-Heritage-House-111062928972026/

Officers

President: **Jacqueline Harjula** 207.975.1476

Vice President: **Joanne Nelson**

Secretary: **Mariann Ahola**

Treasurer: **Edna Montgomery**

Trustees

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Kathleen Anderson

Steve Gifford

Anne Little

Kirsti Fish

Newsletter Editor

Fred Webel

Building Committee

Gary Swanson

Foreign Correspondent

Alex Anttila

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Finnish Heritage House to preserve the memory of our Finnish immigrant ancestors who freely chose a new homeland and transplanted the seed of the Finnish people to be assimilated within the American dream.

In their honor, we pledge to help their descendants in tracing their family roots, as well as promoting closer ties between our two nations.



The FinnAm Society of Mid-Coast Maine South Thomaston, Maine

Officers

President: **Linda Grant**

Vice President: **Anne Little**

Secretary: **Mariann Ahola**

Treasurer: **Scott Hodgkins**

Directors

Barbara Hooper

Edna Montgomery

Anna Silverman

Kirsti Fish

Joan Harjula

Membership Chair

Gloria Dennison

Building Committee

Gary Swanson

If you have received your newsletter via Postal Mail, please be aware that printing and postage is costly. In order to keep our expenses down we are asking if you would be willing to receive your newsletter exclusively in electronic format as an email attachment? If you are agreeable, please send us a confirming email at:

fh.sthomasston.me@gmail.com

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRING? CHECK THE MAILING LABEL. If the date is in RED It indicates that your membership has expired. Newsletters will automatically stop 12 months after a membership has expired.

To **JOIN** as a new member, or to **RENEW** your membership, please complete this form and return, with a check payable to Finnish Heritage House, to FHH, 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 Membership (\$10) _____ 5 Year Membership (\$45) _____ Gift \$ _____



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