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2010-2011 Event Schedule

| Date | Event | Location | Contact |
|--|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12/9/2012, 3-5 p.m. | Lucia Rehearsal | Gethsemane Lutheran Church | Anne Keating Kristie Eubank |
| 12/15/2012, 7 p.m (Rehearsal at 5 p.m.) | Lucia | Gethsemane Lutheran Church | Anne Keating Kristie Eubank |

Lucia

The Luciafest will take place at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 15, 2012, at 7 p.m. This is a tradition dear to all of us and one that is celebrated throughout the Nordic countries. We ask everyone interested in participating to come to a mandatory rehearsal on Sunday, December 9 at the church from 3 to 5 p.m., and to arrive for a final practice at 5 p.m. on December 15.

Fall Dinner at Spindletop

Members and friends met at Spindletop Hall on November 3d for the Fall Harvest Dinner. Kristie Eubank, Vice President, welcomed everyone and congratulated Bill and Mary Hedberg on the arrival of their grandson, Sullivan Anthony Peters, who was born on Sunday, October 28 to Cary and Dusty Peters. His proud older sister, Savannah, is three years old.

Marie Hosie has been unwell, and members were invited to remember her with calls or cards.

In other news Jenny and Andy Berens are expecting twins right around the time of Luciafest! Best wishes to them

We have had an offer of books in Swedish, including poetry and novels, and would like to hear from members if they would like to add to their libraries! We are also considering whether the society may find a home for a library of its own.

After these announcements, we enjoyed a delicious meal of Chicken Marsala sautéed with wild mushrooms, shallots and garlic. Following dinner, we retired to the next room to hear Rowena Green sing the various national anthems of the Scandinavian countries, something we all would like to hear more often. Marion Soule graciously provided piano accompaniment. At the end, we rose to sing our Star-Spangled Banner, which is not the highest anthem if you listen to the lovely but challenging Icelandic anthem on Youtube as suggested by Rowena!

Thank you, Kristie, Rowena and Marion for making the evening special. See you soon at the Luciafest!

Midsummer at Anne Keating's Home

By Anne Keating

On June 23, 2012, I was delighted to host the SHSKY Midsummer celebration. We gathered around 4 pm to put together the usual smorgasbord. Magnus Geijer assembled the Midsummer pole which was covered with greenery and flowers. Ken Hansson and Marie Hosie were celebrating birthdays which gave everyone an opportunity to sing in English and Swedish. While the weather was warm, the shade from the porch and from the trees provided respite, as well as visits inside for the feast. **Two of Kristie's border collies joined us and provided much fun for all, especially the young people who kept them entertained with frisbies and other toys.** We danced around the pole to traditional music and visited all around. It was lovely to see everyone enjoying the day. Many thanks to all for the help in putting this event together, bringing the beautiful pole, chairs and tables, decorations, and delicious food. I was especially happy that members of my family were able to join us.



GI ad Midsommar!



2012



Laskiainen 2012

By Anne Keating

I have a few clarifications to offer on the write up in June concerning the profile on Risto Marttinen and Urho Lehikoinen's families who emigrated from Finland. Alpo Marttinen's eldest brother Einari was killed in Estonia in 1918 fighting the Reds. Alpo was only 10 at the time. Alpo went to the Military Academy in Helsinki. He was a captain when the Winter War began. By the end of the wars, he was a Colonel, the youngest in the army. In 1948, he joined the US Army, went to Ft. Benning, Ga. where he was briefly a Private, then a Master Sgt. At Ft Leavenworth, Ks, he later became a Lt. Colonel and then a Colonel. I enclose a photo of Risto from June 5, 2012, as Gold Medal holder in Javelin in Kentucky in the 70-79 age group!



Urho's father, Pete, emigrated from Finland to the USA in 1912 at the encouragement of his brother Antti; both became barbers. Mrina Pirhonen, Pete's girlfriend, came over in 1913 and they were married that year in Pittsburgh, Pa. Urho's sister, Erma, was born in 1914 in Pittsburgh. The family returned to Finland in 1921, and Urho was born in 1925 in Finland. The family then returned to the USA.

When the Depression hit, the financial picture was dim and the family decided to return to Finland in 1933. Mr. Lehikoinen remained in the US to find a buyer for his real estate and planned then to join the family. When business did improve, the family decided instead to return to the US, but Urho could not leave as he was a citizen of Finland and had a 2 year military obligation. The family decided to stay with Urho until he was free to go. The war put all plans on hold. Afterwards, Urho completed 1 ½ years of studies in Forestry at the University of Helsinki when the family received the necessary documents. They then learned that Urho's father had passed away of surgical complications which made emigration impossible. Urho obtained an emergency visa to settle his father's estate. Later he received a student visa to study at Finlandia University and Michigan Technological University where he obtained a degree in Organic Chemistry. Note the correction that Urho's father did not serve in the Military.

Urho worked in many different areas of Chemistry at Ethyl Corporation, including weapons research, life saving projects etc. Some components of the Mercury capsule was his special job. Urho became a US citizen and under the law also could remain a citizen of Finland.

One last comment on the war by Urho: "The troops that went into Lapland to drive the German troops into Norway were our greenest troops. The seasoned groups like ours were left further south along the Russian border as seasoned border guard troops ready in case of a surprise Russian attack. I was given the position of a military Intelligence Officer partly because of my background in the Russian Language." Urho also is well acquainted with German and reads Spanish. Hence Urho is fluent in Finnish, English, Russian, German, Spanish and Swedish as well!

Nobel Prizes

This is the season for Nobel Prizes presented by Norway and Sweden in a number of different areas: Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace and in Economics. These prizes were established by Alfred Nobel who came from a family of engineers. Alfred was born in Stockholm in 1833 became an engineer, chemist and inventor with 355 inventions to his credit. Perhaps his most famous invention is dynamite. Around 1888, eight years before his death, Alfred **read an obituary mistakenly about himself that reported that "The Merchant of Death is dead."** While the obituary actually referred to his brother, Alfred was determined to leave a different legacy. He changed his will, leaving almost all of his vast fortune for the establishment of prizes to be given each year to individuals who had contributed to the benefit of mankind in a variety of fields.

A Nobel Foundation was organized to administer the fund and to provide for a process of selection. A Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Peace Prize and other organizations in Sweden award prizes in the other areas. The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences administers awards in Physics and Chemistry and a Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Science. The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet administers the prizes in Physiology or Medicine, and Swedish Academy administers the prizes in Literature. The recipients receive a gold medal, and a large sum of money determined by the Foundation each year. Prizes may be shared with up to 3 persons, and if no Peace prize is awarded, that sum is added to the scientific prizes.

The first Peace Prizes went to Frederic Passy, the cofounder of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international forum for negotiations among nations. This organization has permanent observer status at the UN and helped to develop the Court of Arbitration in the Hague. Henry Dunant was honored as the founder of the International committee of the Red Cross, based in Geneva, Switzerland, with the goal of protecting victims of international and internal armed conflicts. This organization, itself, has received 3 Peace Prizes.

There were no Peace Prizes in 1939 and from 1940-42, there were no prizes as Norway was occupied by the Nazis. As the Nobel Foundation attempted to continue, the Nobel Foundation building in Oslo was declared to be Swedish territory and as Sweden was neutral during the war, the building in Oslo became a safe haven for the Foundation during the war.

A prize in Economics was added in 1969 after the Sveriges Riksbank made a large donation to the Nobel Foundation in **honor of the bank's 300th anniversary. This award is closely identified with the original awards, and is presented at the same time as the others at the same ceremony.** The Foundation then decided not to expand the categories further.

Each year, around September the Foundation sends out about 3000 nomination forms for the following year. These go mostly to academics from the various fields. Peace Prize nomination forms go to governments, international courts, former recipients and others. Nominations are due by the end of the following January, and the committees then select around 300 finalists from whom the various institutions make the final selection. The process is confidential, and nominees are not aware of their consideration at the time, and records are protected for 50 years.

Originally, the discoveries were to have been made in the previous year; in Science, that proved problematic as some discoveries later were discredited. Now scientific discoveries are considered once they have been definitively established. Similarly, the award for literature may refer to a lifetime of work, while the Peace Prize may be in recognition either of recent accomplishments or in recognition of accomplishments over a lifetime.

The ceremony takes place on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death. Usually, in the days preceding the festivities, the recipients offer lectures, although they may choose to do so later. In Sweden, the prizes are presented by the King of Sweden, followed by a dinner attended by the Royal Family and by approximately 1300 guests, with entertainment and dancing. In Oslo, the Peace Prize usually is presented on December 10 by the Chairman of the Nobel Committee in the presence of the King of Norway. The ceremony is followed by a dinner in which the Laureates and guests join the King and Queen, President of Parliament and Prime Minister.

The golden medal has the image of Alfred Nobel on the front, the name of the laureate on the rim, and the reverse relates to the institution making the award.

Note that four individuals have received 2 prizes: Marie Sklodowska-Curie, Linus Pauling, John Bardeen and Frederick Sanger. Two organizations have received several Peace Prizes: the International Committee of the Red Cross has been a recipient 3 times, and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees, 2 times. Certain families have more than one award. The Curie family received 5, and others exist who have received 2. I always look forward to learning who will **receive this year's awards. Alfred Nobel has surely left a remarkable legacy.**