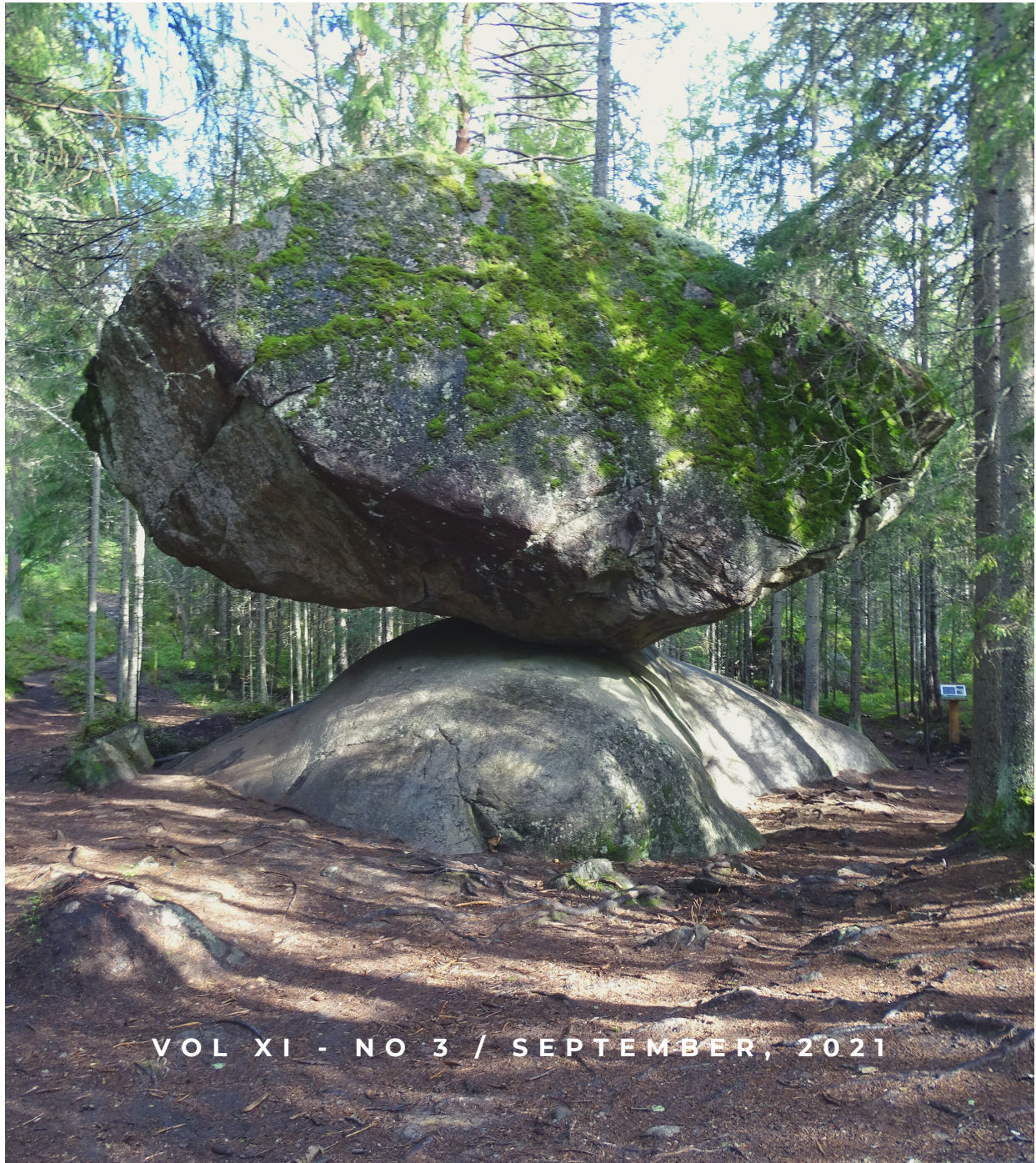


FINLANDIA FOUNDATION
SUOMI CHAPTER

FINNOVATIONS

PROMOTING FINNISH HERITAGE FROM THE
EVERGREEN STATE TO THE GOLDEN STATE



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*Cover Photo: "Kumma Kivi" (Strange
Stone). Photo by Lasse Holma. See pages
13-14 for more information on this unusual
formation.*

New FFSC Hats Are Here!

Hats come in black, red or blue. The price
is \$20 each plus \$5 for postage.

One size fits all.



President's Corner

Happy end of summer Finns, Finnish-Americans,
and friends of Finland here in Western
Washington! I wanted to introduce myself,
Hanna Winter, as the new President of the
Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter.

I was born in Helsinki, Finland and moved to
Bellevue, WA when I was 2 ½ years old with my
parents and younger brother. My parents only
planned to stay in the U.S. for a few years, but
they loved the area and the Finnish community
here, so we stayed and became U.S. citizens.

I moved to Bellingham to attend WWU and now,
years later, am raising my son with my American
husband here. I am teaching my son the Finnish
language and culture. Finlandia Foundation
Suomi Chapter has been a great organization
through which both of us could connect to other
Finns and Finnish-ness in general as a
community.

As you all know, it's been a long year. COVID-19
stopped nearly all our events and plans during
2020 and half of 2021.

Early this summer, we re-emerged with a
Juhannus (midsummer) gathering at Whatcom
Falls Park in the end of June. This was the first
time for a long time that we were able to feel
safe in planning a gathering. We made sure our
event was outdoors and we put together boxed
lunches to avoid shared utensils. In the planning
for the event, I was worried that we would be
cold in the shade at Whatcom Falls Park, but in
fact we had the opposite problem!

Our Juhannus celebration happened to take
place during the record-breaking heat wave that
also drew huge crowds seeking a place to cool
down. Despite the heat and lack of parking,

we had a turnout of 20 people and enjoyed lunch and camaraderie.



I've heard from several people that they enjoyed the Juhannus gathering and especially the lunches! I was able to find out that Bellingham-based Raven Bakery makes a sourdough rye very similar to the Finnish style (flattened ring of dark rye). The bread was such a hit that Raven Bakery is baking it monthly to sell as a special bread at the fourth Saturday Bellingham Farmers Market. You can even pre-order from their website (www.ravenbreads.com). Please support them so we can keep our delicious source of sourdough rye coming! I love this bread so much I recently bought ten loaves!

As follow-up to our Juhannus celebration, we had a small potluck at Whatcom Falls Park at the end of August. We had a small turnout but enjoyed chatting and getting to know each other.

Photos above and to the right: Good food, good music and good company at Whatcom Falls Park!

Coming up, we are planning a trip to the WSU's Bread Lab on Saturday, September 25th from 11am to 2pm. We will get a tour of the Bread Lab, learn about the rye research taking place there, and have a rye-centered lunch complete with discussion on the cultural importance of rye, especially for immigrants. The cost is \$25. Please RSVP at ffsuomi@gmail.com. We hope to see you all there!

Other events in the works are an Independence Day (itsenäisyyspäivä) party on Sunday, December 5th.

Until our next event, I hope you all stay safe, healthy, and keep warm as the fall rolls in!

Hyvää syksyä (happy fall)!

Hanna Winter



“Resemblances:”

A Cross-Cultural Film-making Workshop

Teenage students from four continents and in four different times zones excitedly awaited the ZOOM premier screening of the videos their international teams had just finished producing. It was Sunday evening, May 2, 2021, for five students in Bellingham, Washington although for three of Bellingham’s sister cities it was Monday at 7:00 AM for three students in Vaasa, Finland and Monday at 1:00 PM for five students in Tateyama, Japan and 3:00 PM for the one representative from Port Stephens, Australia.

Under the direction of Tom Flint, founder and facilitator of Filmbuilding.org, and Lauren McClanahan, director of the Bellingham Youth Media Project, the 14 students worked together in three teams to create videos around the theme “Resemblances.” Resourceful teenagers that they are, they used a translator program to overcome any language barrier, and they used WhatsApp and Instagram to communicate with distant group members in other time zones. Good communication was essential as they encouraged each other to obtain still photos and video clips that fit their vision of lifestyle and geographic resemblances in their various cities.

The week began on Saturday evening/Sunday morning in late April with

an orientation when Tom and Lauren “met” the students via ZOOM. After some “getting to know you” activities, Tom helped everyone download the link to WeVideo.com since that would be the cloud-based software the students would use to edit their movie projects. Since the software is cloud-based, group members were able to load all their files into one project timeline and then concurrently edit their work regardless of their location or time of day. This was a great example of sister city cooperation since each of the three groups had at least three different countries and languages represented.

To conclude the orientation, participants were tasked with creating brief, personal video clips to include things such as their name, what makes them unique, what “home” means to them and what brought them comfort during these challenging times. Throughout the next few days they imported their personal clips into their group’s WeVideo project timeline and did simple editing wherever needed. It was great seeing how quickly these strangers bonded into a group to collaboratively create videos even though the group members were scattered around the world.

The following Thursday/Friday was the first of four days of consecutive ZOOM meetings for the participants, the wide-ranging meeting times being the same as those mentioned in the opening paragraph.

First on the agenda for this initial workshop session was to watch the introductory videos the three groups had produced.

However, the majority of this session and the next were devoted to working in ZOOM “breakout rooms” where group members could collaborate apart from other groups to discuss what resemblances they shared in their lives, their schools, their hobbies, their foods, etc. Two other early, major decisions group members had to make were what type of story-line or format they were going to use to tie together all their video material and what each person planned to videotape on their own time.

In the third ZOOM session the groups shared what they had completed so far. Each group had followed Tom’s advice and obtained more material than was necessary. This allowed them to be selective in choosing only the most appropriate clips to include in their team’s five-minute final video presentation. Since the “premier” screening was to be done the following day, each group selected one or two members to do the final editing.

For the closing workshop session on Sunday/Monday, all participants were encouraged to invite family, friends, classmates, etc. to watch the video premiers via ZOOM. Tom began the show by sharing with over 40 spectators the introductory videos the three groups had initially produced. Afterward one of the three “Resemblances” videos was shared with everyone. The creative students who produced that video were then given an opportunity to reflect upon their production experiences, and audience members were given an opportunity to ask questions or comment.

This same procedure was followed for the showing of the second and third “Resemblances” videos.

Positive comments abounded regarding the fantastic effort the 14 students had put forth to successfully produce thematic videos with people living on other continents and in different time zones. All three groups uniquely presented their view of “Resemblances” of life in these four sister cities, and their portrayals were all very well done. It was great to hear the students comment on the beauty of each other’s locations, the various talents each displayed, the foods they ate, etc. A number of them said they were going to miss working together with their group members and eagerly wanted to visit each other’s cities.

To view the three final videos, please visit: <https://filmbuilding.org/resemblances> . To contact Tom Flint of filmbuilding.org, please write to him at thefilmbuilder@gmail.com. To contact Lauren McClanahan of the Bellingham Youth Media Project, please write to her at mcclanl@wwu.edu.

Five typical comments from the participants’ program evaluations include:

- “It was super cool to see how alike we all are, despite living so far away from one another.”
- “I enjoyed talking to people with different cultures. I had fun explaining my culture to everyone else because it made me understand my culture a bit more.”
- “Through communication with friends, I was able to discover wonderful things about the city, which also helped improve my English ability.”
- “Working with people from other cultures is something that is of interest to me, and something I want to do more often!”

•"[I discovered] That there is always a way to make other people understand you. Working together is key."

In closing, this collaborative activity between Filmbuilding.org, the Bellingham Youth Media Project and the Bellingham Sister Cities Association was very successful due to the enormous efforts of the 14 students, the teachers who recruited them and the parents who helped the participants gather video material. A similar collaborative endeavor is planned for this October to tentatively include teenagers from Vaasa, Punta Arenas (Chile) and Bellingham.

**Article Respectfully Submitted by
Jeff Eastman, Vaasa City Chairperson,
Bellingham Sister Cities Association**

Here's How Finland Solved Its Homelessness Problem

In the last year in the UK, the number of people sleeping rough rose by 7%. In Germany, the last two years saw a 35% increase in the number of homeless while in France, there has been an increase of 50% in the last 11 years.

These are Europe's three biggest economies, and yet they haven't solved their housing problem. Across Europe, the picture is much the same.

Except in Finland.

There, the number of homeless is steadily decreasing. So what have they been doing differently?

The Finns have turned the traditional approach to homelessness on its head.

There can be a number of reasons as to why someone ends up homeless, including sudden job loss or family breakdown, severe substance abuse or mental health problems. But most homelessness policies work on the premise that the homeless person has to sort those problems out first before they can get permanent accommodation.

Finland does the opposite - it gives them a home first.



The scheme, introduced in 2007, is called Housing First. It is built on the principle that having a permanent home can make solving health and social problems much easier.

The homeless are given permanent housing on a normal lease. That can range from a self-contained apartment to a housing block with round-the-clock support. Tenants pay rent and are entitled to receive housing benefits. Depending on their income, they may contribute to the cost of the support services they receive. The rest is covered by local government.

Since the scheme started, thousands have benefited.

At the same time as being given a home, they receive individually tailored support services.

For instance, anyone can reserve an appointment with a housing advisor and receive advice in things like problems with paying the rent or applying for other government benefits.

There are also financial and debt counselling services to help people manage their finances and debts. Much of the support can be provided in their own home.

Housing First works so well because it is a mainstream national homelessness policy with a common framework, according to Juha Kaakinen, Chief executive of Y-Foundation, a social enterprise that provides housing to Housing First. It involves a wide partnership of people: the state, volunteers, municipalities and NGOs.



Chronic housing shortages contribute to homelessness. In Finland, increasing the supply of affordable rental housing was a critical part of the approach.

Finland used its existing social housing, but also bought flats from the private market and built new housing blocks in order to provide homes.

There are no more homeless shelters in Finland. They have all been turned into supported housing.

“All this costs money,” admits Kaakinen. “But there is ample evidence from many countries that shows it is always more cost-effective to aim to end homelessness instead of simply trying to manage it. Investment in ending homelessness always pays back, to say nothing of the human and ethical reasons.”

The savings in terms of the services needed by one person can be up to 9,600 euros a year when compared to the costs that would result from that person being homeless, he adds.

Not everyone in Finland was happy with the new policy. Firstly, many of those working with the homeless objected to the idea that they should receive a home first, without having to sort out any of their problems first.

But Housing First argues that it's much more difficult to solve any problems without having a roof over your head. In the words of one person who benefitted from the scheme: “Homelessness also meant daily alcohol use. It was not so much about getting drunk, but a way to pass the time. When I've had an apartment, I've spent several months without drinking. You can't get sober when you're homeless, no one can.”

And in residential areas where new housing blocks were established, many residents were unhappy. They were worried that it would adversely affect their neighborhood.

Part of the approach of Housing First is that a sense of community is very important.

For instance, when a new housing block is built, much work is done in the local neighborhood at the same time.

That includes keeping the local community informed through open house events, encouraging residents to interact openly with the local community as well as working in the local community picking up litter and taking care of the neighborhood's green spaces.

When a new supported housing unit opens, it typically takes about two years for the area to get accustomed to the unit and its residents. It takes about the same amount of time for the unit's residents to adjust well to the environment.

Another issue with the policy was that it didn't seem to be reaching women. Women's homelessness has not decreased, even though homelessness and long-term homelessness in general has. Consequently, closer attention has been paid to solving and finding solutions to women's homelessness.



The Y-Foundation believes that the model can be replicated abroad, even though housing conditions vary.

In the UK, a study by the homeless charity Crisis found that a policy of this kind in the UK could be more than five times as effective and nearly five times more cost-effective than existing services.

But a recent Government report concluded that, whilst the work of Housing First in Finland was to be commended, “we believe that resources should be focused on supporting more mainstream efforts to tackle homelessness and prevent instances of entrenched homelessness.”

Kaakinen says: “There is no quick fix to all life situations but a solid base provides the foundations upon which to improve the welfare of the homeless. The first step in change is the change in attitudes.”

By Alex Gray
Adapted From an Article on
www.weforum.org

Under Pandemic Shadows

I saw the news that Biden has asked the intelligence services to find out if Covid-19 could be a laboratory fugitive from China. The political background to the counterattack may have had to be dealt with in this way.

However, from the point of view of a virus researcher, I think it's a matter of rumors. There have been reports in the public that the staff in the laboratory in Wuhan had severe pneumonia, which could very well have been caused by Corona. If so, it was most likely an infection from a sample sent to the laboratory for analysis. Yes, they occur from time to time and the danger is particularly high in the case of a new and previously unknown virus, the identity of which was attempted to be established by routine methods normally used without the application of special precautions.

I myself studied for a couple of years whether the mouse Coronavirus could be converted to damage the nervous system (the study was done in a state laboratory in the USA). It did not work out. It has now become apparent that the Coronavirus genome is exceptionally large and difficult to manipulate.

Recent observations of how new variants of the virus are emerging show that nature is quite imaginative. The Coronavirus itself is able to transform and adapt to an optimal form for its own reproductive capacity.

(I guess it will also spread effectively in those who have been vaccinated - an interesting idea to follow next year!).

It is quite another thing to do a trick in the laboratory, even though today you know how to quickly determine the base order of the genome and make various additions and deletions to the genome.

For me, it is enough to explain the current epidemic that the virus has been transmitted to humans from bats. The rabies virus, for example, is also transmitted from bat to human. And of course Ebola. The origin of the HIV virus is probably in some monkey, perhaps because of its ability to cause such a long-lasting (lifelong) disease. It has already adapted to the primate's genetic environment

As early as a hundred years ago, it was discovered that if a virus is artificially introduced into a species other than its own, its biological properties will change. This is probably the case with the Covid virus as well. It has also been found that the more distant the virus is, the more new traits it is able to cause. In a bat, asymptomatic Covid infection can be a cause of serious illness in humans.

Last year, an interesting U.S.-Spanish study was published that found that even in the cleanest environments (in this case from the top of high mountains, including the Sierra Nevadas), air samples contained a dozen different "pre-viruses" that already had virus-specific gene sequences. Apparently, we live in a world where our environment is full of various microbial precursors that, when given the opportunity, seek to take over new breeding targets for themselves, such as humans or other animals. Maybe that's why our own defense system has been forced

to become so versatile and ready for almost anything?

Doomsday viruses suitable for biological warfare are usually featured in science fiction novels or comics. Sometimes they also end up on the political tables. Then a lack of knowledge (and understanding?) Leads to delusions and sometimes even war (e.g. Iraq and Saddam Hussein).

Against such a threat, one can only hope for the wisdom of decision-makers.

By Professor Pauli Leinikki
Translated and Submitted by Tapio Holma
Editor's Note: Prof. Leinikki (retired) is one of the leading Virology Experts for the National Health Service of Finland.

Finns Find Novel Ways to Tackle COVID-19

Nasal sprays, a 10-minute test and sniffer dogs are among the recent innovations from Finland in the prevention, treatment and detection of the coronavirus.

The global fight against COVID-19 takes many forms. For VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland it also comes in the shape of an artificial human head, which helps researchers to investigate the mechanisms of droplet and aerosol transmission of the virus.

Unveiled earlier this year, the artificial head is capable of breathing, coughing and sneezing out specific and repeatable consistencies of droplets and aerosols. This helps to determine the effectiveness of masks, air purifiers and other products that reduce the risk of transmission.

Yet, when it comes to stopping the virus dead in its tracks, the world's attention is transfixed on the rollout of vaccines. While there are already several leading parties which have staked their claim on the global market, Finland's Rokote Laboratories seeks to distinguish itself through an alternative route: the nasopharyngeal tract.



Based on research by the University of Helsinki and the University of Eastern Finland, its nasal spray vaccine triggers an immune response by prompting nasopharyngeal cells to produce a virus protein with a safe adenovirus carrier containing a cloned DNA strain.

Aside from appealing to those who are needle averse, there is a more substantial reason for this nasal focus. Tentative results point to nasal administration inducing a broader immune response than intramuscular administration, producing antibodies that protect mucous membranes – an important factor to consider given the typical point of entry for an airborne disease.

“We assume that this can also prevent those who have received the vaccine from transmitting the virus,” added

Seppo Ylä-Herttuala, an academy professor at the University of Eastern Finland.

Turku-based company Therapeutica Borealis, too, has focused on the nose when developing its patented solution. Its nasal spray weakens the ability of the virus to enter the body and replicate itself, thus decreasing the risk of seriously falling ill.

“Tackling the pandemic probably requires, in addition to a vaccine, a preventive or early-acting drug,” said Kalervo Väänänen, one of the three inventors and founders of Therapeutica Borealis. “This drug also helps especially in a situation where vaccine coverage threatens to remain too low for herd immunity.”



The solution is created from the commonly used drugs aprotinin, hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, which are harnessed in a new and targeted manner on the mucous membrane of the upper respiratory tract.

The innovation is turning heads. Therapeutica Borealis announced this week that its drug has been granted a patent from The US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This final patent stands as an important milestone for the company.

“Our next goal is to find an established pharmaceutical industry company with an international business scale,” Väänänen said.

“Completing the development of the drug within a quick schedule is possible, because the molecules being used are known in terms of safety, and the development can be directed at phase-II tests on efficacy and efficiency in relation to different doses and dosing mechanisms,” he added.

Researchers at the University of Helsinki, meanwhile, announced this month that they have developed a new rapid assay principle for viral antigen detection, which diagnoses SARS-CoV-2 infections in as little as 10 minutes. They found that the rapid test was able to diagnose the infection almost as accurately as polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. The test format can also be used to diagnose other respiratory infections.

The test is based on a phenomenon known as time-resolved Förster resonance energy transfer (TR-FRET), in which energy travels between two light-sensitive molecules when they are in close enough proximity.

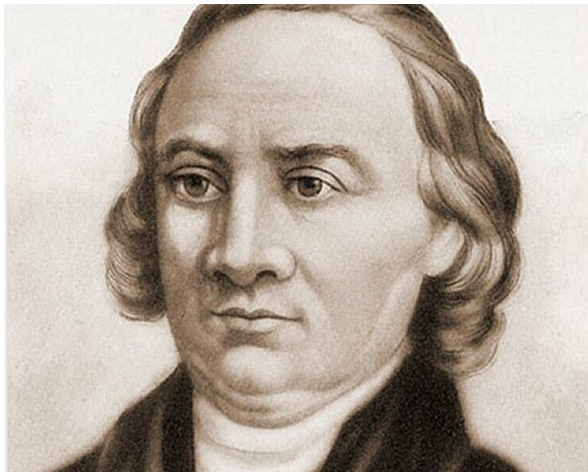
Alongside haste, the test boasts some additional beneficial features. It can detect coronavirus even when the sample collection has not been optimal, and, since the virus becomes inactivated soon after being mixed in the test solution, it also enhances levels of safety for testers.

Furthermore, the test could in essence be carried out anywhere since the test requires a TR-FRET reader roughly the size of a desktop computer.

“The theoretical capacity of the test is very high,” commented Jussi Hepojoki, docent of virology and Academy of Finland research fellow at the University of Helsinki. “According to our calculations, it would be possible to manually analyse as many as 500 samples per hour, with one person doing the testing and using a single testing device. Also, the cost of test reagents is fairly low.”

By James O’Sullivan
Adapted From an Article on
goodnewsfindland.com

Who Was John Morton?



John Morton was the only Finnish-Swedish-American signer of the Declaration of Independence, a descendant of Martti Marttinen, Bärtel Eskilsson, and Johan Grelsson.

He was born 10 March 1724 in Ammansland, Ridley Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania to Maria Archer, widow of John Morton. He was raised by his English stepfather, John Sketchley.

He married Anna Justis (herself also a great-granddaughter of Martti Marttinen)

in 1743 or 1750. John Morton died 1 April 1777 in Ridley Township, Delaware County, Pennsylvania

John Morton was one of the signatories to the Declaration of Independence of the United States in 1776. He was descended from settlers who had moved to Sweden from Finland (at that time a Swedish province) in the 1500s and 1600s, to work as slash-and-burn laborers in the forest.

Over ten thousand Finns, the majority of them from the Savo region, settled during that period in the forests of central Sweden, and later spread over the border into Norway. In 1653, one of these settlers, John Morton’s great-grandfather Mårten Mårtensson, left to join the colony of New Sweden (Nya Sverige) on the Delaware River.

Over half of the Swedish subjects who settled in New Sweden came from this Finnish ethnic background. In the mid-1700s, John Morton emerged as one of the leading political figures in Pennsylvania, into which New Sweden had been absorbed in the later 1600s.

He died in 1777, the year following the Declaration of Independence, still relatively young, but with a distinguished career behind him in many positions of public responsibility. Thus John Morton became one of the Founding Fathers of the United States.

In recent years, there has been a renewal of interest in these men. In addition to his influential standing in Pennsylvania, where he served in many positions in local government, for example in the judicial and revenue departments, Morton also served

as the Chairman of the Continental Congress committee charged with drafting the constitution for the new country; but as a consequence of his early death, he has been largely overshadowed by such prominent contemporary figures as Benjamin Franklin.

In advance of the Continental Congress, when Pennsylvania's representatives gathered to decide on the colony's position, the voting was evenly divided, and it was John Morton's vote which decided the outcome in favor of independence. It is known that he had not initially been a strong supporter of independence, and had carefully deliberated on the potentially serious consequences of the Declaration before deciding to cast his vote in favor.

By Auvo Kostiainen

The Kummakivi Balancing Rock and Its Unlikely Explanation in Finnish Folklore

The Kummakivi Balancing Rock is a natural feature found in a scenic forest region of Ruokolahti, a municipality in the region of South Karelia, in the southeastern part of Finland. This feature consists of two boulders, one perched precariously on the top of the other.

Although the upper rock looks as though it would roll off at any given moment, this has not happened. Additionally, if a human being were to apply force to the rock, it would not budge even the slightest bit.

The name of this Finnish balancing rock, 'Kummakivi', has been translated to mean 'strange rock'. Two rocks make up this unusual geological formation. The rock on the bottom has the shape of a curved mound. It is lodged in the earth, and has a smooth, convex surface.



Resting on the top of this bedrock is another huge rock measuring about 7 meters long (22.97 ft). The contact point between these two rocks is rather small, and it looks as though the upper rock is performing an impossible balancing act.

The ancient inhabitants of this area, who no doubt were perplexed by the sight of this natural wonder, sought to find an explanation as to how this balancing rock came to be in such a baffling position. It is likely that this group of people tried to move the Kummakivi Balancing Rock with their own hands. Realizing, however, that the physical force that they applied to it failed to move the boulder, they speculated that a supernatural force must have moved it to the site.

The mythology of Finland is filled with supernatural creatures such as trolls and giants. Such creatures are believed to possess physical strength beyond that of

any mere mortal. Moreover, some of these creatures have also been associated with rocky landscapes. For instance, a *hiisi* ('hiidet' in plural) is a type of giant in Finnish mythology said to dwell in rocky landscapes.



Finnish folklore also states that such creatures have the habit of throwing boulders around, creating cairns, and carving out strange holes in rocky outcrops (which are believed to have been used by these giants to churn milk). Thus, the explanation provided by local folklore for the Kummakivi Balancing Rock is that it was brought / rolled / thrown there by a giant / troll.

Geologists, however, have provided an alternate explanation for the formation of the Kummakivi Balancing Rock. It has been speculated that the huge rock had been brought there by glaciers during the last glacial period. When the glaciers retreated from the area to the north, about 12,000 years ago, this rock was left behind, and hence became the Kummakivi Balancing Rock.

To conclude, the Kummakivi Balancing Rock is indeed a natural wonder to behold. While people in ancient times have attributed its formation to mythological

giants, a more scientific explanation is available today.

The importance of this feature has been recognized and it was given protected status in 1962. Moreover, in the USA, balancing rocks have been used for seismic studies, and perhaps this balancing rock may prove useful for a similar purpose in the future too.

By Wu Mingren
Adapted From an Article on
www.ancient-origins.net

Helsinki Biennial Brings Janet Echelman's Artwork 1.78 to Senate Square

Janet Echelman (b. 1966) creates aerial sculptures at the scale of buildings and city blocks from her studio in Boston. She combines ancient craft with modern design software through collaboration with e.g. structural engineers and city planners.

Thanks to her combination of highly-engineered fibres with traditional textile craftsmanship, the voluminous aerial sculptures float weightlessly in the air yet can withstand strong winds and extreme weather.

1.78 is part of Echelman's Earthtime series – works based on scientific data that are meant to remind us of our complex interconnection with larger cycles of time and the systems of our physical world.

The number in the title refers to the number of microseconds that the Earth's day was shortened as a result of a single physical event – the shifting of the earth's



tectonic plates which caused an earthquake and tsunami, and also shifted the speed of the earth's rotation.

1.78's sculptural form is inspired by the mapping of weight height data across an oceanic expanse, and the layers of colourful fibre, braided and knotted together, pulse with changing wind and weather. At night, the sculpture comes to life with projected coloured light.

Echelman's sculpture will be accompanied by sound artist Tuomas Norvio's sound installation Empathy for the fish and others. The installation will combine an underwater soundscape, streamed from Vallisaari Island, and wind data

simultaneously measured at the Senate Square.

The sound installation will be audible to visitors daily at the Senate Square via a public address system; at night, it can be listened to via headphones connected to a mobile device.

**Adapted From an Article on
helsinkibiennaali.fi**

A Rare, Flying Saucer– Shaped Futuro Home Touches Down in England

One of fewer than 100 ever manufactured, the Space Age prefab offers guests an out-of-this-world stay in Somerset's Marston Park.

In 1965, Finnish designer Matti Suuronen set out to design an après-ski cabin that would be efficient to heat and easy to transport, giving rise to the Futuro home—truly a product of the Space Age with its sleek, UFO-like shape. Made of fiberglass-reinforced plastic to reduce weight, the modular panels were meant to be bolted together on site, and the structure's metal legs could be adapted for different topographies. Though marketed as a prefabricated tiny home suitable for the masses, fewer than 100 Futuro pods were made, with an estimated 60 still in existence.

One Futuro house, however, has just touched down on the banks of a lake in Marston Park, a Victorian estate in Somerset, England. It was recently restored by artist and owner Craig Barnes, who discovered the derelict specimen in South Africa.

"Workers were knocking down a building nearby and we thought they were going to tear it down too," says Craig. "It was a wreck: There was no front door left, and the windows had been smashed in. We found out who owned it, and on an impulse while on top of Table Mountain, we agreed to buy it."



Since undergoing the restoration, the turquoise Futuro has popped up all over London, including a stint on the rooftop of the city's Central Saint Martins, an art school. During its stay, it caught the attention of Michael Fenna, the director of Marston Park. "I first saw it and thought, This has to come here!" he remembers.

After a long process of coordinating logistics and timing, the Futuro house at Marston Park offers guests a unique chance to savor a slice of architectural history in a tranquil, wooded setting. (Chances to stay in a Futuro house are hard to come by, though one is also available to rent in California's Joshua Tree.)

"It was always important to me that wherever [the house] goes, it functions as a space to live and experience—an inspiring place that everyone can see," says

Craig. "I never wanted this to be something that you cannot touch. The launch at Marston Park is the fulfillment of a longstanding dream to offer this womb-like structure for people to stay in."



For a limited time, overnight guests can experience this otherworldly design. Featuring a double bed and a flexible sleeping space, the prefab can comfortably accommodate up to four people and also comes with its own private bathroom facilities. Though it is not equipped with a kitchenette, food services are available on site all day.



"The Futuro at Marston Park will be the first in what we hope will be a long line of collaborations with artists, architects, designers, and ingenious folk from the world over," says Fenna.



"This is a sculpture that I have been working on for years—restoring it, curating it, programming it," says Craig. "But I don't want to hide it from the world. I want to share it."

For a limited time, the Futuro House in Marston Park is available to rent starting at £400 per night.

Adapted From an Article on [dwell.com](https://www.dwell.com)

FROM THE BEGINNING...



In 1994, ASE Master Technician, Todd Black opened Unlimited Service. The name he chose represents our corporate philosophy and identity. We offer our customers a level of service beyond what many have come to expect from an automotive repair shop. We understand the investment our customers make in their vehicles and it is our goal to help make that investment last and be dependable as long as possible.

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Dues and donations are tax deductible. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter - P.O. Box 2544 Bellingham WA 98227

Regards From Finland!

There are two organizations in Finland which celebrate their 100 year anniversary this year. One is Lotta Svärd, a female organization. Formed originally in 1918, it had a large membership undertaking volunteer social work in the 1920s and 1930s. During the Second World War, it mobilized to replace men conscripted into the army. It served in hospitals, at air raid warning positions, and performed other auxiliary tasks in close cooperation with the army.



The Lotta Svärd emblem was designed by Eric Wasström in 1921. It includes four heraldic roses and a swastika. The swastika motif was inspired by a symbol of luck that decorated the first aircraft in the Finnish Defence Forces, which was donated by the Swedish Count Eric von Rosen in 1918.



The other organization is SYL, the National Union of University Students in Finland.

SYL represents approximately 130,000 university students in Finland. All student unions in Finnish universities are members of SYL.

SYL was established in 1921 to promote student well-being and the role and status of students in society.



Throughout its existence, SYL has tirelessly defended and looked after the interests of university students in Finland as their only interest group. The student meal subsidy, student health care and student financial aid are just some examples of SYL's achievements.

I was a part of that organization before moving to the States.

By Tapio Holma

Finlandia Foundation Suomi Chapter



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