

WASA DAILY

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Вітаємо всіх українців у
Ваасі! Сподіваємося, вам тут
сподобається і навіть залишитеся
після закінчення війни в Україні! А
warm welcome to all Ukrainians in Vaasa! We
hope you will enjoy yourself here and even
stay after the war in Ukraine is over!

**Local Media
Ownership
matters**

**BIG
MIDSUMMER
JOURNAL!**

**A new minister
and a new mem-
ber of Parliament**

**Summer Flowers
in Vaasa**

**Road
Churches**

HERE WE ARE:

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Local Media Ownership Matters

Heikki Hellman's article "Finnish Media is Consolidating – And It Matters," in Helsingin Sanomat on May 26 raises a crucial question: Does it matter who owns the newspaper you read? The article explores the effects of media consolidation and presents compelling arguments for why local ownership of local newspapers is important.

Digitalization has undeniably challenged the traditional media landscape, forcing newspapers to seek new revenue streams. This has led to consolidation, where an increasing portion of the press is controlled by fewer and fewer media groups. This trend can lead to a decline in local perspectives, reduced diversity, and a homogenization of content across publications.

However, local newspapers play an irreplaceable role. They provide local knowledge and viewpoints that national papers simply cannot. They bolster local culture and identity, and serve as a platform for community discourse. Therefore, it's vital that local newspapers remain independent and locally owned.

A locally owned newspaper is more likely to be invested in the local community and its needs. Its profits stay local, potentially supporting local cultural activities. If the paper faces financial difficulties, the local population is more inclined to offer financial support. This is unlikely to be the case when a large international corporation owns the paper.



The local Swedish newspaper i Vaasa was sold to a multinational company in February 2024

The new EU Media Freedom Act (EMFA) represents a positive step. It requires member states to monitor media consolidation not just in terms of market competition, but also with an eye towards media pluralism and editorial independence. This is crucial to ensuring public access to media content that offers a variety of viewpoints and perspectives.

Finland should also consider its own measures to safeguard local newspa-

per ownership. This could involve tax breaks for local publications or regulations restricting media consolidation.

It's important to remember that ownership matters in news media. Local ownership holds particular significance as local newspapers serve as the voice of their communities and contribute to local democracy. We all have a role to play in supporting local newspapers and ensuring they remain independent and locally owned.



Photo Supplement - vpress.ovh

WASA DAILY - a modern newspaper with a layout from the 1870s. At that time, most newspapers had this format, corresponding to A4, and 4 pages. Lots of text, but no pictures at all, so there's a lot to read in a few pages. The newspaper contains quotes from old daily newspapers, taken from the National Archives (digl.kansalliskirjasto.fi). Text in this publication is generated in part with GPT-3, OpenAI's large-scale language-generation model. Upon generating draft language, the texts have been reviewed, edited, and revised the language and the newspaper takes ultimate responsibility for the content of this publication. Wasa Daily will continue to be published on Sunday mornings, but our aim is that it will eventually be published every day. The magazine can be read online for free, printed single issues cost 1 €. Editor-in-Chief: Hans Björknäs. Mail: Wasa Dagblad, Skolhusgatan 37 B 7, 65100 Vasa, telephone +358-40-5462455. E - mail: wasadagblad@gmail.com

THL: Pohjanmaalla 6 liters, in Lapland 10: Alcohol Consumption Decreases, but Regional Differences are Significant



THL's statistics reveal significant differences in alcohol consumption across Finland. In 2023, the least amount of alcohol was consumed in Ostrobothnia, while consumption was highest in Lapland.

Alcohol consumption continued to decrease last year. According to fresh statistics from the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), the total alcohol consumption in Finland was 8.7 liters of pure alcohol per inhabitant aged 15 and over. This is 2.4 percent less than in 2022.

Total alcohol consumption consists of retail sales of alcoholic beverages and on-premises

sales in Finland, as well as alcohol purchased by Finns from abroad and online. Consumption has been declining since 2007.

THL's leading expert, Thomas Karlsson, emphasizes the importance of reduced alcohol consumption: "The decrease in alcohol consumption is a positive development that has had a favorable impact on Finns' health and well-being. However, increasing the availability of stronger alcoholic beverages gradually undermines national alcohol policy and thus the positive trend in total alcohol consumption."

Significant Regional Differences in Sales

THL's statistics reveal significant regional differences in the sales of alcoholic beverages. More alcohol is sold in eastern Finland than in western Finland, and more in northern Finland than

in southern Finland. In northern Finland, where sales reach 10.5 liters of pure alcohol per inhabitant aged 15 and over, tourism boosts sales. In summer cottage regions in eastern Finland, such as South Savo (9.3 liters) and South Karelia (8.6 liters), summer residents also influence sales volumes.

In the welfare areas of eastern Finland, alcohol-related morbidity and mortality are higher than in western Finland, indicating that the permanent residents of the region also consume more alcohol than in western Finland.

THL's special expert, Marke Jääskeläinen, notes that the division of Uusimaa into smaller welfare areas revealed that eastern, central, and western Uusimaa sell less alcohol than the national average. In Helsinki, alcohol sales are in line with the national average.

In the welfare areas of southern, central, and northern Ostrobothnia, as well as Ostrobothnia, alcohol sales are lower than the national average (7.4 liters). In 2023, the least amount of alcohol was sold in the Ostrobothnia welfare area (6 liters). The low sales in Åland are explained by Ålanders buying alcohol on cruise ships.

Distribution of Consumption in Different Channels
Purchases of alcoholic beverages from retail outlets, such as grocery stores and Alko, decreased by 3 percent in 2023. Retail consumption accounted for 75 percent of total consumption, so the decrease affected total consumption more than the increase in travel imports and on-premises consumption. Purchases of alcoholic beverages from foreign online stores decreased significantly, by about

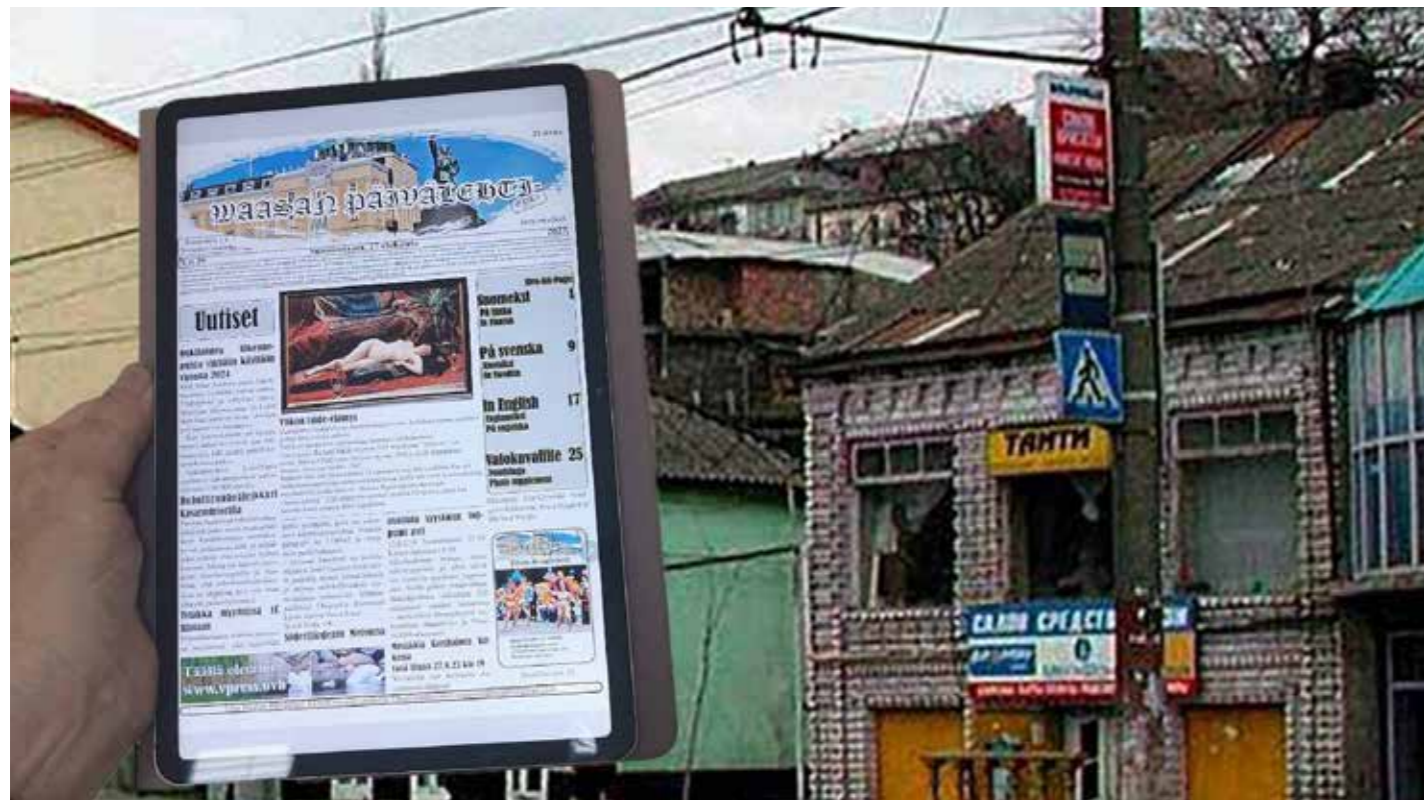
62 percent compared to 2022.

"The distribution of alcohol consumption across different purchase channels still reflects a return to the situation before the COVID-19 pandemic. On-premises consumption in restaurants increased slightly while retail consumption continued to decline. Travel imports also increased for the second consecutive year," says Jääskeläinen.

Increased Consumption of Mixed Drinks

The consumption of mixed drinks increased by nearly 15 percent compared to 2022, while consumption of other beverage categories decreased. Beer remained the largest beverage category, accounting for 46 percent of consumption. The share of strong alcoholic beverages was 21 percent, and mild wines accounted for 20 percent.

THIS NEWSPAPER CAN BE READ ANYWHERE



Like here in Dagestan

The regional differences in alcohol consumption highlight that national alcohol policy has varying effects across different parts of the country. Jääskeläinen reminds us that this year, funding for social and health services has been cut, while the availability of stronger alcoholic beverages has been expanded. This could increase the burden on social and health services. (Source: THL)

The Centre Party elected a new party leadership – the Centre Party will be led by Antti Kaikkonen

The Jyväskylä Party Congress of the Centre Party has elected a new leadership for the party for the next two-year term. Antti Kaikkonen was elected chairman, who will take over the leadership of the party. Hilikka Kemppe, Tuomas



Kettunen and Markus Lohi were elected as new Vice Chairmen. Antti Siika-aho, who has held the position before, will continue as the party's secretary. The Centre Party Congress was held on Saturday 15 June, and it gathered a large number of party members and supporters. The meeting had a lively discussion on the future and policies of the party. The election of Antti Kaikkonen as party chairman brings with it

expectations of renewal and strong leadership. Kaikkonen has previously served as Minister of Defence and Member of Parliament, and he is expected to bring new energy and clarity to the party's policies. The new leadership of the Centre Party is now focusing on preparing for future challenges and developing the party's activities into an even stronger political force in Finland. The aim of the party is to

strengthen its position in Finnish politics and promote centrist values and goals

Image: Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain

Anders Adlercreutz elected as the new party chairman of the Swedish People's Party

Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering and third-term Member of Parliament Anders Adlercreutz has

been elected as the new party chairman of the Swedish People's Party at the party day in Helsinki. Adlercreutz received 183 votes and takes over the leadership of the party.

"I am extremely happy and grateful for the great support and confidence that I received today from the party day," says the newly elected party chairman of the Swedish People's Party, Anders Adlercreutz, in a news



text published by the Swedish People's Party.

Adlercreutz also expressed his appreciation to all those who supported him during the presidential campaign, with a special thank you to his family for their support.

"Now there is an order for the Swedish People's Party

politics. When other parties go out towards the edges, our playing field is open. In order for us to continue to stand up for all that is important to us – an open, tolerant society and a bilingual Finland – we need a strong mandate from our voters, and we must aim for that. Next year we have a municipal election and a county election, and that work starts now.

In his speech, Adlercreutz thanked his fellow candidates Otto Andersson and Henrik Wickström for a good campaign, and outgoing party chairman Anna-Maja Henriksson for her eight years as chairman.

Ramieza Mahdi, Silja Borgardsóttir Sandelin and Sandra Bergqvist were elected Vice Chairs of the Swedish People's Party.

As Minister for European Affairs and Ownership Steering, Adlercreutz is responsible for EU affairs that do not fall under the Prime Minister's Office and represents Finland in the General Affairs Council, among other things. In addition, he is responsible for the state's ownership steering policy.

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Art Experience of the Week:



Helene Schjerfbeck
10.7.1862 - 23.1.1946
A Boy Feeding his Little Sister, 1881

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Anders Adlercreutz Takes Over as

Education Minister After Anna-Maja Henriksson

The Swedish People's Party (SFP) has announced new ministerial appointments following Anna-Maja Henriksson's departure from the government to become a Member of the European Parliament.

Newly elected party leader Anders Adlercreutz will assume the role of Education Minister,

succeeding Henriksson as expected.



Joakim Strand is a new minister

Joakim Strand, 41 years old, from Vaasa, will be serving as a minister for the first time. He has been a Member of Parliament since 2015 and currently chairs the Intelligence Oversight Committee. Additionally, Strand is a member of both the Defense and Finance Committees. Strand has now been appointed the new Minister for European Affairs, with additional responsibilities for state ownership steering.

And a member of Parliament, from Korsholm: Christoffer Ingo

Anna-Maja Henriksson was elected as MEP, and her place in the parliament will now be taken by Christoffer Ingo from Korsholm.

Wärtsilä solutions to minimise emissions of two new CMA CGM ferries

Technology group Wärtsilä will supply the engines, fuel gas supply system and thrusters for two new Ropax ferries being built for French operator La Méridionale, a subsidiary of CMA CGM. The vessels, which have been specifically

designed to minimise emissions, are to be built at the China Merchants Jinling Shipyard (Weihai) Co., Ltd., and will operate between Marseille and Corsica. The order with Wärtsilä was booked in April 2024. Ferries are on the front line of the energy transition and are among the first sectors to target net zero-carbon operations.

"The design of these two Ropax vessels reflects our commitment to reducing the carbon footprint within our own fleet. These will be among the most energy-efficient, low-emission ships in operation globally, and we value the support from Wärtsilä, whose technology and solutions help make this ambition possible," says Xavier Leclercq, Vice-President, CMA Ships, CMA CGM.

The company will continue its efforts to reduce the environmental impact by adopting LNG as the primary fuel for the new ships as well as preparing them to operate on alternative fuels such as biogas and synthetic methane, as these become available at scale. For each ship, Wärtsilä will supply two 12-cylinder, one 10-cylinder and one 8-cylinder Wärtsilä 31DF engines. The two ferries will benefit from Wärtsilä's groundbreaking NextDF technology, which will be implemented in the Wärtsilä 31DF engines. Whilst operating on LNG, the NextDF version of the Wärtsilä 31DF further reduces methane emissions and nitrogen oxide (NOx) significantly (compared to the already emission-efficient standard Wärtsilä 31DF). The scope of Wärtsilä's supply for this contract also includes the Wärtsilä LNGpac, a

fuel gas supply system for LNG-fuelled ships, as well as Wärtsilä's thrusters.

"The drive towards net zero emissions is one of the most important challenges facing the industry today," comments Stefan Nysjö, Vice President of Power Supply, Wärtsilä Marine.

"That's why we are pleased to support our long-standing partners, CMA CGM and China Merchants Jinling Shipyard (Weihai) Co., Ltd., with our integrated solutions – ensuring these ferries are able to benefit from outstanding fuel efficiency, operational reliability and a significant reduction in GHG emissions.

"The 180-metre-long ships will be able to accommodate 1,000 passengers as well as cargo freight. The Wärtsilä equipment for these ferries is scheduled to be delivered in mid-2025, with the ferries expected to enter service during the first half of 2027, operating between Marseille and Corsica. (Wärtsilä Corporation, Press release 5 June 2024)

They, who know a little more are They, who read Wasa Daily

Meditation, Indian folk music and Finno-Ugric folk song at Tikanoja's art home

In connection with the Oriental Spirituality exhibition at Tikanoja's Art

Home, events will be organised on four Saturdays, including Indian folk music and Finno-Ugric folk songs. The public has the opportunity to participate in Sahaja Yoga meditation Event:

Sat 8.6. 13:00–14:30: Singer-songwriter Tiina Huttu performs

Sat 15.6. 13:00–14:30: Sahaja Yoga Meditation

Sat 29.6. 13:00–14:30: Singer Peali Juva performs

Sat 6.7. 13.00–14.30: Sahaja Yoga meditation

Kuusela's dance piece "Influenced" will be performed at the City Theatre in autumn 2024

Master of Dance Marjo Kuusela will bring her new work "Influenced" to the premiere of Julia Stage on 24 October 2024. The work is a dance-theatre study of human interaction and its effects. The premiere explores questions such as: Who influences and whom? What affects you? Who and where do you belong?

"Influenced" is a deep dive into the relationships between the individual and the community, where body language is used to express feelings and thoughts that words do not always reach. Kuusela, who has been a central figure in Finnish dance since the 1970s, directs and choreographs the work. She brings out human experiences and everyday drama through dance.

The set design is by Maria Antman, who is known for her creative and insightful scenography. Antman last visited Vaasa City Theatre in autumn 2023 with the play "Kaa-os", and now he brings his vision

The next day, Saturday 12 October, drag

to Kuusela's work. The soundscape of the work, which draws inspiration from folk music, is the responsibility of Jouni Tapio. The soundscape she has designed complements and deepens the dancers' expression. The stage features the theatre's own dancers Ulla Hyväluoma and Miika Alatupa, whose orbid movement language brings the work to life. Young dancers from Vaasa Community College Alma will also be present, bringing fresh energy and dynamics to the performance.

"Impressed" offers viewers a unique opportunity to experience the power of dance and its ability to touch deeply. This work promises to be one of the highlights of the cultural life of Vaasa in the autumn.

The City Theatre's Heart of Autumn Festival will bring theatre experiences at the end of 2024

The autumn's cultural calendar will once again receive the much-anticipated addition when the Heart of Autumn Theatre Festival kicks off on Friday, October 11, 2024. The opening screening of the festival will be the one-woman musical "Zarah L.", which tells the story of the life of Swedish actress and singer Zarah Leander. The talented Tiina Weckström will take the stage at Theatre Restaurant Kulma, accompanied by pianist Janne Viitaniemi. Written by Hans Peter Gansner, the play offers a unique opportunity to dive into the fascinating world of Leander.

The next day, Saturday 12 October, drag

star Marko Vainio's action-packed "Divet Show" will be staged on the Romeo stage. Vainio is known for his energetic performance and ability to bring an impressive and entertaining show to the stage that leaves no one cold.

On Saturday 9 November, Jarno Hyökyaara's monologue "Round Truth" will be performed on the Julia Stage. This show tells the story of a young person growing up in the world of football and provides a touching and relatable experience for viewers. Hyökyaara is a familiar face from Vaasa, where he last visited the musical "West Side Story" in the 2022-2023 season in the role of Bernardo.

On Tuesday, November 12 and Wednesday, November 13, the Romeo stage will see "All My Friends", an independent sequel to the blockbuster plays "All My Mother, All My Daughters" and "All My Men". The play deals with different aspects of friendship and brings Miitta Sorval, Sanna Stellan and Anu Sinisalo to the stage, who interpret the nuances of friendship in a touching and humorous way.

The Heart of Autumn Festival offers a diverse range of theatre experiences and is an excellent opportunity to enjoy high-quality culture in the darkening evenings at the end of the year. Tickets are now on sale at the box office and on the website – secure your seat at these unforgettable shows!

Exciting collaborations and diverse productions at Wasa Teater this year

Next year at Wasa Theatre offers a diverse se-

lection of productions and guest performances, thanks to cooperation with various Finnish theatres and groups. There is something for all tastes and a great selection for those who want to see everything.

Autumn begins with a gripping comedy-drama. The autumn season of the main stage begins on 14 September with the comedy drama "Cake Light", in which Tove Quickström plays the main role Stina. The play follows Stina's life from the age of 17 to the age of 107 to the age of 90. Despite the fact that guests vary, she always bakes the same cake, the aroma of which spreads throughout the salon, especially at the end, when the cake is ready. The show explores life changes and choices in 90 minutes, and no one leaves the stage during this overall experience.

First Christmas play in seventeen years. In November, Wasa Theatre will present Christmas spirit with a performance based on NRK, Snowfall

popular advent calendar. For the first time in seventeen years, the theatre presents a Christmas play, which runs from November 15 to Epiphany. "Snowfall" is a magical story about finding a home and belonging, and it features the entire ensemble of the Wasa Theatre as well as twelve children from Ostrobothnia who take turns in roles.

Excursions for both children and adults

The performance year begins with a tour traditionally aimed at daycare centres in Ostrobothnia. In cooperation with the drama pedagogical resource centre Dialog,

1–5-year-olds are offered "Play Saga", where children first hear Pim's story and then step into the storybook themselves.

For adult audiences, a tour is organized in cooperation with Klockrike-teatern. "BELLMAN – Am I born, then I want to live!" is a musical theatre performance about the life and work of Swedish singer and poet Carl Michael Bellman. Celebrating the Swedish language, the performance offers an experience full of enthusiasm, longing and dreams.

Theater Director's Comment "We have a very cooperative year ahead of us, playing from Canada, Sweden, Norway and Vaasa. The mission of theatre is to explore what human life can be, and through these plays we do just that," says theatre director Ann-Liise Bertell.

Wasa Theatre welcomes the audience to a performance year full of variety and deep experiences. Tickets are available now, so secure your seat to experience the highlights of autumn and winter at the theater.

Vaasa City Theatre: 36,000 visitors

The screening year 2023–2024 included six premieres, diverse guest appearances and new kinds of collaborative productions. The total number of visitors during the year reached almost 36,000.

The Fractures-themed season opened on 31.8.2023 with Mr. Hakkarainen's storytelling, which toured numerous daycare centres in the Vaasa region during the year. The musical comedy Nuns and Rogues

premiered on the Romeo stage on 9.9.2023, gathered nearly 10,000 viewers during the year and became the most watched work of the year.

Evening music in Oravais and Vörå

Wed 12.6 at 19.00
Oravais Church
Church Hill Boys, dir. Kristoffer Streng
Guy Djupsjöbacka, devotion. Free admission, collection.

Wed 19.6 at 19.00
Oravais Church Erik Nygård, violin, Tea Polso, piano
"The Daughters of Music", music by female composers. Devotion, collection for the church's music work.

Wed 26.6 at 19.00
Vörå Church
Eva-Lott Björklund
Devotion. Free admission, programme leaflet 15 €. (Source: Vörå parish)

Bank of Finland: Finland's economy gradually moving out of recession

The Finnish economy is recovering from the recession. Inflation is low and an improvement in the purchasing power of households is supporting a recovery in private consumption. Growth in the economy will gather pace in the immediate years ahead as the economic environment improves both in Finland and its export markets.

The Bank of Finland has today published its economic forecast for the period 2024–2026. The country's gross domestic product (GDP) for 2024 will still show a year-on-year contraction, at -0.5%. In 2025,

the recession will be over and GDP will be up by 1.2%. The economy will grow further in 2026, by 1.7%. "Finland's economy is slowly moving out of recession. GDP growth in the coming years will nevertheless be subdued," says the Bank of Finland's Acting Head of Forecasting, Juuso Vanhala.

Inflation has fallen on a broad basis across the Finnish economy in the first part of the year. "The upward pressures on prices are moderate, though the increase in value added tax will raise consumer prices from the autumn onwards," says Vanhala. Inflation is projected to rise to 2% in 2025. It will then fall to 1.6% in 2026, when the inflationary impact of the VAT increases diminishes.

Consumer spending will gradually recover as the purchasing power of households rises. "The outlook for the economy is improving and the level of economic uncertainty is slowly dissipating. At the same time the financial markets are expecting interest rates to fall. These factors will all support the recovery in private consumption," says Vanhala. The past few years have seen a sharp increase in economic uncertainty. Many households are cautious and consumer confidence in the economy is noticeably weak. The Government's fiscal adjustment measures, including tax increases and social benefit reductions, will dampen the growth in purchasing power.

The amount of private investment across the year will again be down substantially in 2024. Housing construction will continue to decli-

EVENTS

KALEVAN COMPETITIONS in Vaasa
27-30 June 2024

The Athletics Championship, or the Kaleva Games, will be held in Vaasa on June 27-30, 2024. It is one of the most significant national sports events of the year in Finland

<https://kk2024.fi/>

VAASA FOOTBALL CUP

5.-7.7.2024

<https://www.wasafootballcup.com/>

"KÖRTTISHOP" in the Parish House
HERÄTTÄJÄJUHLAT IN VAASA 5.-7.7.2024

Vaasa is set to host the city's second-ever awakening festival in the summer of 2024, a remarkable 60 years after the last event

The theme for the days is "Let the wind fill the sails."

The festival grounds are located in the city center, alongside many hotels and restaurants, making it easy to move around on foot or by bike. In Vaasa, you are truly by the sea, as the distance from the market square to the beach is just a few hundred meters. A tranquil evening stroll along the water-front, a visit to the playground, or exploring the city's magnificent cultural offerings can be easily done in the immediate vicinity of the festival area.

"Körttiradio" will broadcast programs around the clock throughout the event days.

TANGOMARKKINAT 40 Years!

10-14.7.2024

Seinäjäski

<https://www.tangomarkkinat.fi/>

VETERAN TRACTOR DAY IN MALAX

Tractor Show 20.07.2024 at. 10.00-17.00
Kråkbacken

Autumn plowing 21.09.2024 at. 10.00-14.00

Helgeävägen 31, Långåminne
<https://malaxveterantraktor.fi/>

ZINC

19-20.7.2024

CRAFBEER STREETFOOD FESTIVAL

Vaasas first international beer festival!

15 breweries from all around Europe and over 120 different beers to sample.

Meet the brewers and discover the amazing world of Craft beer.

A big variety of mouthwatering street food to choose from.

Vaasa Town Square

<https://www.zincfestival.fi/>

LOHTAJA CHURCH MUSIC FESTIVAL

23-28.7.2024

www.kirkkomusiikkijuhlat.fi

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL

Tjuvstart-Varaslähtö-Early Start

23.7.24 kl 19.30

Vaasa City Church

"POHJALAISIA"-silent movie, Jimi Järvinen organ

www.korsholmmusicfestival.fi

KORSHOLM MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

24.7-31.7.2024

www.korsholmmusicfestival.fi

TOVE TEUVALLA-OPERA

Östermark kyrka .Teuvan kirkko

3.8.24 - 11. 8.2024

<https://www.korsholmmusicfestival.fi/tove-teuvalla/operan-tove-teuvalla>

VAASA FESTIVAL

1-3.8.2024

<https://vaasafestival.fi/>

WASA FUTURE FESTIVAL

5-10.8.2024

The Wasa Future Festival 2024 is set to take place from 5th to 10th August. This event gathers knowledgeable and motivated individuals from the business world, universities, regional decision-making bodies, and ministerial corps to focus on solving issues in Vaasa and across Finland. The event can be followed on Wasa Future Festival YouTube channel.

Wasa Innovation Center
Gerbyntie 18

65230 Vaasa

<https://wasafuturefestival.fi/>

NIGHT OF THE ARTS



In Vaasa

15.8.2024

VAASAN MARSSI

9.-11.8.2024

Vaasan Kävelyklubi ry/rf

www.vaasanmarssi.fi

RUSK

Chamber Music in Jakobstad

19-23.11.2024

The Beauty of Longing

International creativity at the darkest time of the year

ruskfestival.fi

TIKANOJA

THE ART EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Eero Järnefelts exhibition
opens on Nov 23, 2024

CLIMATE CHANGE

Copernicus: May 2024 - Hottest on Record
Marks 12 Straight Months of Broken Records

The Earth's fever continues unabated. May 2024 has been crowned the hottest May ever recorded, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). This scorching development is just the latest chapter in a disturbing trend: May marks the 12th consecutive month where global temperatures have broken records.

This news arrives alongside the Annual to Decadal Climate Prediction Update from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UK's Meteorological Office. Their report, released concurrently, paints a concerning picture for the near future. It predicts that at least one of the next five years will likely surpass 2023 and become the hottest year on record.

The Significance of This Streak

The record-breaking streak may seem shocking, but for climate scientists like Carlo Buontempo, Director of C3S, it's an unsurprising consequence of a warming planet. While this specific streak will eventually end, the bigger picture remains grim: there's no sign of the overall trend reversing.

This unprecedented situation highlights the importance of climate monitoring. The data collected by C3S plays a crucial role in informing action. Ironically, these "hottest months" might be considered "cold" in the future if we manage to curb greenhouse gas emissions drastically.

A Call to Action

The urgency of the situation is echoed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. He emphasizes the dire message our planet is sending: record-breaking temperatures are a stark reality with serious consequences. We are at a critical juncture, Guterres stresses, and

immediate action is paramount.

Beyond the Headlines: Key Data Points

May 2024's global average surface air temperature was 0.65°C above the 1991-2020 average. This marks the 11th consecutive month exceeding 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (since July 2023).

The global average temperature for the past 12 months (June 2023 - May 2024) is the highest on record: 0.75°C above the 1991-2020 average and a staggering 1.63°C above pre-industrial levels.

The data from Copernicus and the WMO-UK Met Office report will be used to inform a major climate statement by UN Secretary-General Guterres. This underlines the importance of scientific evidence in driving global action on climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Urban Heat Islands: A Growing Threat Exacerbated by Climate Change



Cities, particularly large ones, are becoming increasingly hotter than their surrounding rural areas. This phenomenon, known as the "urban heat island effect," means that the temperature in urban environments can be significantly higher than in the countryside.

The consequences are serious and can negatively impact human health, increasing the risk of cardiovascular and respiratory problems, heatstroke, and other health issues. With climate change threatening our planet, the urban heat island issue is becoming increasingly acute.

The reason behind the heat island effect is the artificial infrastructure and human activities that characterize cities. Compared to rural areas, which are often covered in grass, crops, shrubs, or forests, urban areas have a significantly higher propor-

tion of paved surfaces. Vegetation helps to cool the air, while asphalt and concrete, on the other hand, absorb heat, leading to temperature increases. Additionally, buildings and narrow streets contribute to trapping heat by restricting airflow. Human activities, such as heating buildings and driving cars, also add heat to the urban environment.

Overall, all of these factors lead to the urban heat island effect, which is most pronounced at night. Then, the temperature in cities can be up to 10°C higher than in rural areas. This is because the heat stored in buildings and roads during the day is released at night.

The effect is particularly evident in larger cities. For example, temperatures in central London and Paris are regularly recorded to be around 4°C higher than in the surrounding countryside at night. Both of these cities, as well as many others around Europe and the

world, experience heat stress that leads to public health problems.

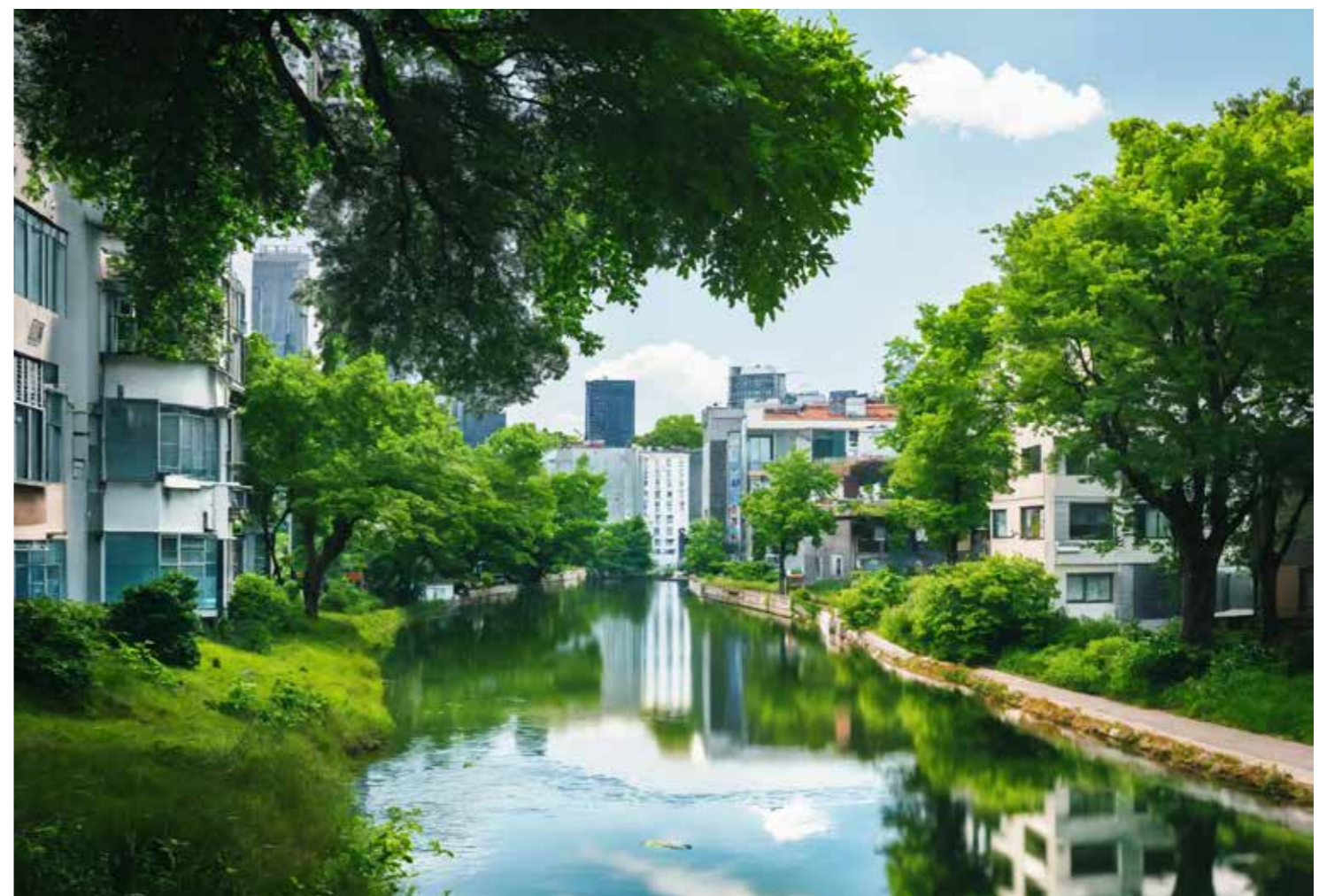
To address this growing problem, urban planners and local governments are working to develop strategies to reduce heat stress in cities. Solutions may include increasing the amount of so-called green-blue infrastructure. Examples of this include increased vegetation cover, such as through green roofs, and more water surfaces. However, to implement these changes, they first need to get a detailed picture of how temperature varies within the urban environments they are responsible for.

Managing urban heat islands is an important part of making cities more sustainable and livable, especially in light of future climate change. By reducing heat stress, we can create a better quality of life for residents while also contributing to a more sustainable future.

(Source: C3S)



Where would You like to live?



FLOWERS

Vaasa to Plant Tens of Thousands of Summer Flowers Again



The cityscape of Vasa will once again be adorned with stunning summer flowers. This year's theme for the summer plantings is warm shades of orange and burgundy. Vasa city encourages residents and visitors to explore the summer flower brochure and take a flower walk guided by the map in the brochure.

Planning of Summer Flowers

The planning of the summer flowers begins at the end of the previous year, when the color theme for the plantings is decided. This year, the flower planting planning is handled by horticulturist Åsa Enholm under the supervision of green area horticulturist Leila Roininen.

Summer Flower Season

The 2024 summer flower season

begins around Easter, when tetanus daffodils are brought to Vasa city center. In May, the city will already be adorned with about 28,000 tulips and daffodils, which were planted last October. The bulb plants will bloom this year in shades of yellow, orange-red, pink, and purple.

"In May, we also start preparing the group plantings at the city garden, when the flower towers and pots are planted in the greenhouse," Enholm explains.

The plantings will continue to grow in the greenhouse until the end of night frosts and cold nights, after which they will be brought to various parts of the city.

"After the bulbs have wilted, the soil beds are fertilized and turned for flower planting. By midsummer, all approximately 19,000 summer flowers will have been planted," Enholm continues.

The Charming Effect of Summer Flowers

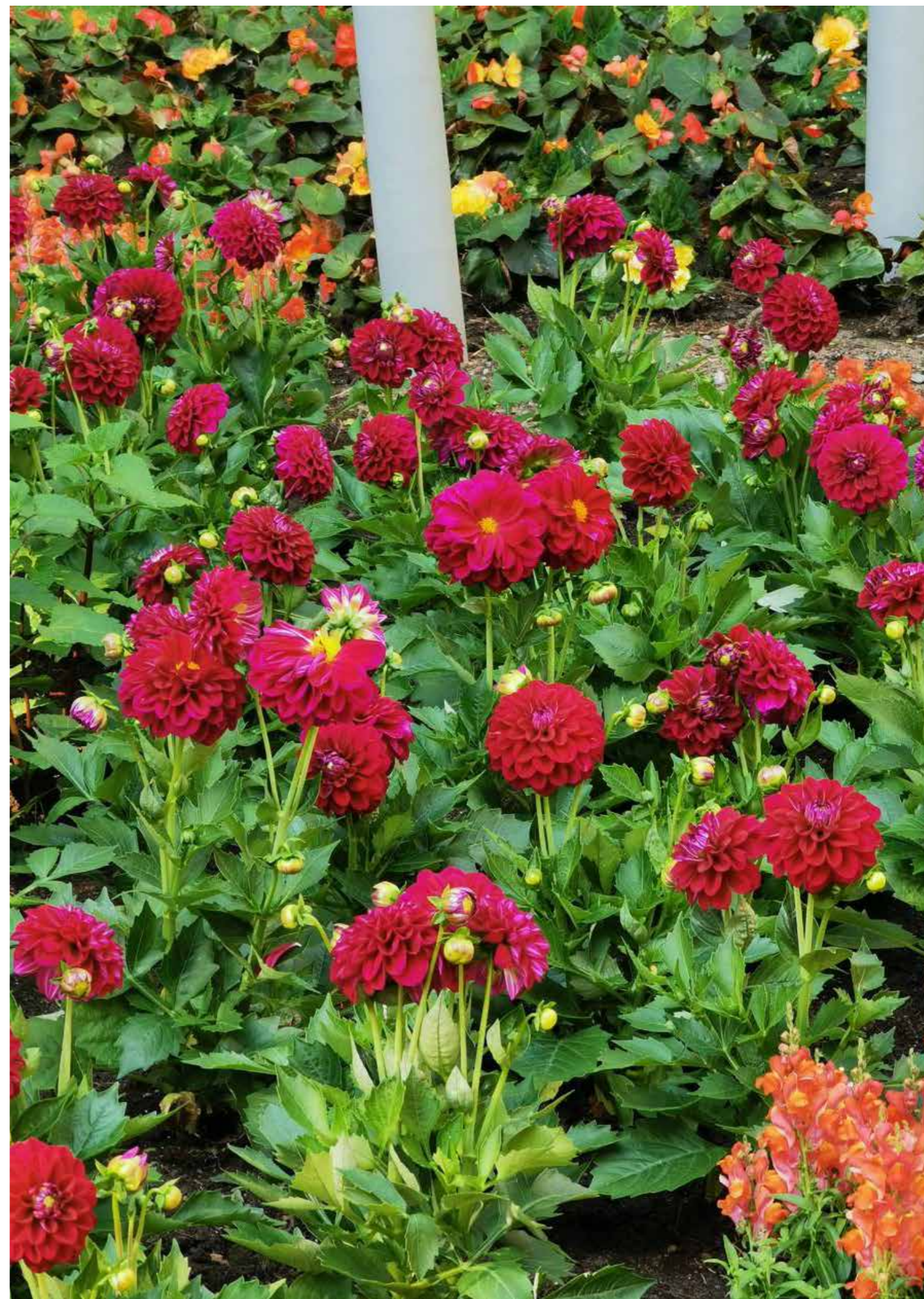
The summer flowers will delight the city's residents and visitors for about four months. This year, the summer flowers will bloom in warm shades of orange and burgundy, with accent colors of purple, yellow, and white.

Explore the Summer Flower Brochure and Take a Flower Walk

The summer flower plantings are presented by species and planting locations in the summer flower brochure. The digital version of the summer flower brochure can be downloaded from the city's website.

A flower walk in Vasa city center is also planned for 2024. The flower walk is a 3.5-kilometer route that goes through the parks and along the shore. Along the route, there are benches where you can rest and enjoy the summery Vasa.

(vasa.fi)





TRAMS



Tatra KT4 Trams in Tallinn, Estonia

Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, is known for its picturesque medieval architecture, vibrant culture, and efficient public transportation system. Among the trams that grace the streets of this historic city, the Tatra KT4 holds a special place. These trams, with their distinctive design and storied past, have become an integral part of Tallinn's public transport network.

Historical Background

The Tatra KT4 trams were manufactured by ČKD Tatra in Czechoslovakia, primarily during the 1970s and 1980s. Designed as articulated trams, the KT4 model was built to navigate the tight corners and narrow streets common in many Eastern European cities. KT4 trams have a unique two-section design connected by a flexible joint, allowing them to handle sharp turns



and providing greater maneuverability.

Tallinn received its first KT4 trams in the late 1970s. These trams quickly became a common sight on the city's streets, admired for their robust construction and reliable performance. Over the decades, they have undergone various upgrades and refurbishments to keep pace with modern standards and ensure passenger comfort.

Design and Features

The Tatra KT4 tram is characterized by its articulated body, which is divided into two sections. This design not only enhances the tram's ability to handle complex urban routes but also increases its passenger capacity. Each section of the tram has a set of doors, facilitating easy entry and exit for passengers. The trams are equipped with comfortable seating and ample standing room, making them suitable for both short city commutes and longer journeys across Tallinn.

Initially, the KT4 trams featured a traditional control system with manual acceleration and braking. However, many units have been modernized with more advanced electronic control systems, improving energy efficiency and operational smoothness. The modernization efforts also included upgrading the interiors with better

lighting, new seating arrangements, and improved accessibility features to cater to passengers with mobility impairments.

Role in Tallinn's Public Transport

The Tatra KT4 trams have played a vital role in the evolution of Tallinn's public transport system. They operate on several key routes across the city, connecting residential areas with commercial and historical centers. The trams are an essential part of Tallinn's integrated public transport network, which includes buses, trolleybuses, and modern low-floor trams.

Despite the introduction of newer tram models, the KT4 trams remain popular among locals and tourists alike. Their distinctive appearance and historical significance add a nostalgic charm to Tallinn's streets. Many residents have fond memories of riding these trams, making them an enduring symbol of the city's urban landscape.

Preservation and Future

As Tallinn continues to modernize its public transportation system, efforts are being made to preserve the Tatra KT4 trams as part of the city's heritage. Some units have been restored and maintained in their original condition, serving as historical exhibits or operating on special heritage routes. These efforts ensure that future

generations can appreciate the engineering and design that defined an era of urban transportation.

The Tatra KT4 trams are also a testament to the resilience and adaptability of Tallinn's public transport system. They have successfully navigated the transition from Soviet-era infrastructure to modern European standards, proving their durability and practicality.

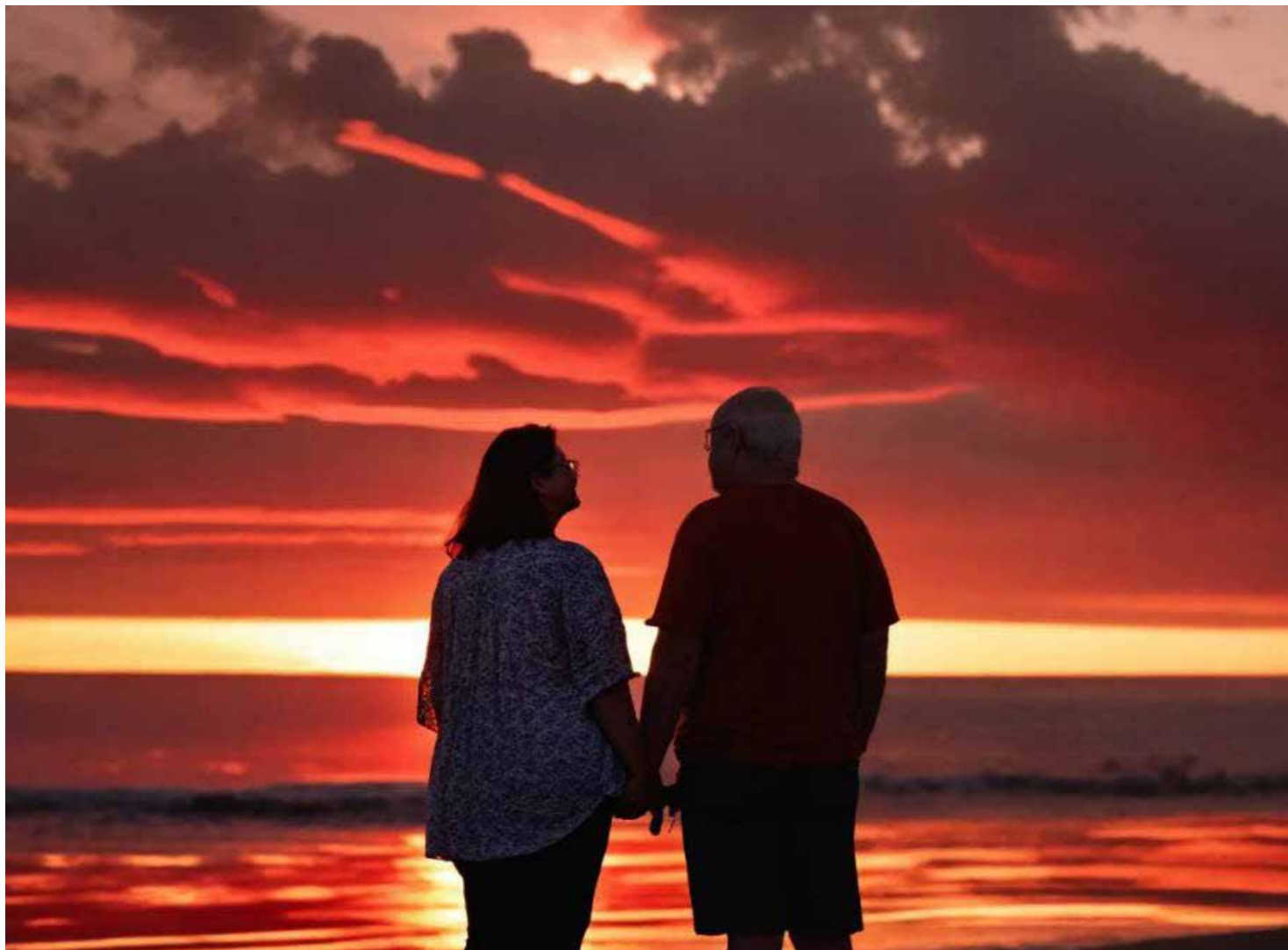
KT4 tram: Technical specifications

Length	18,1 meter
Width	2,2 meter
Height	3,1 meter
Doors	4
Speed (max)	65 km/h (40 mph)
Weight	19.900 kg
Motors	4 x 40 kW

Conclusion

The Tatra KT4 trams in Tallinn are more than just a mode of transportation; they are a moving piece of history. Their continued presence on the streets of Tallinn is a tribute to their robust design and the city's commitment to preserving its rich cultural and technological heritage. Whether you are a daily commuter or a visitor exploring Tallinn, a ride on a Tatra KT4 tram offers a unique glimpse into the city's past and present, seamlessly blending tradition with progress.





Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Type 2 Diabetes

”How common is this disease?”

Approximately one in 10 Finns has type 2 diabetes, some unknowingly. We publish an extensive series of articles about this disease. After reading these articles, you will know absolutely everything there is to know about this. The series of articles is partly based on the article ”Good Medical Practice” published last spring by the Finnish Medical Association Duodecim.

tion Duodecim.

Prevalence and Incidence

Type 2 diabetes is rapidly increasing worldwide, affecting an ever-growing number of people. Particularly concerning is that increasingly younger individuals are being diagnosed, especially within African and Asian populations, where the disease is now seen in young people or even children.

Key Figures and Facts:

FinDM Study: In 2017, 98 people under the age of 20 were diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in Finland. This information comes from the FinDM study, which covers all diabetics identified in the healthcare registry from 1964 to 2017.

Kela Register: At the end of 2022, a total of 381,167 people in Finland received diabetes medication with special reimbursement, with 22,709 of these starting treatment in the same year. The total number

of special reimbursement rights has increased by about 2% annually from 2019 to 2022. However, the number of new special reimbursement rights has decreased since 2012 and remained stable over the past five years.

Diabetes Register: At the end of 2022, there were a total of 378,898 people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes in Finland.

Not all diabetics use medication, and not all who use medication are covered by Kela’s special reimbursement. This means the actual number of people with diabetes is likely even higher than the registers show.

Screening and Diagnosis:

Many people with diabetes are unaware of their condition. In the 2023 Health in Finland survey, 3.4% of men and 2.7% of women without a previous diabetes diagnosis had blood glucose levels indicative of diabetes. This means about one in five diabetes cases was previously undiagnosed.

Active screening with risk tests and glucose tolerance tests appears to have reduced the number of undiagnosed cases. However, between 2017 and 2023, the proportion of undiagnosed diabetes increased among elderly women.

When undiagnosed cases are included, the prevalence of diabetes among men over 20 years old was estimated at 14.1%, and among women at 10.8%. Diabetes is particularly common among the elderly: 26% of men and 23% of women over 65 had diabetes.

Risk Factors

Overweight is the most significant risk factor for type 2 diabetes. In the 2023 Health in Finland survey, the average BMI for men over 20



was 27.9 kg/m², and for women, it was 27.7 kg/m². Among men, 27% were obese (BMI over 30 kg/m²), and among women, 30% were obese.

One of the main reasons for the increase in obesity is decreased physical activity. This is especially concerning among children and adolescents, whose physical activity needs special attention.

Moreover, many psychosocial factors, such as long-term stress, sleep problems, and depression, as well as socioeconomic stressors, are linked to the development and progression of type 2 diabetes.

Commentary

The increasing prevalence of type 2 diabetes is a serious public health challenge that requires a comprehensive approach to both prevention and treatment. Preventive measures, such as increased physical activity and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, are crucial. At the same time, improving screening and diagnostics to detect and treat the disease as early as possible is essential.

HEALTH

Urban Indoor Gardening Boosts Immune System and Improves Skin Health

A recent study has found that urban indoor gardening can significantly enhance immune regulation and diversify skin microbiota. This study, conducted by researchers Mika Saarenpää and colleagues, explores how gardening indoors with microbially rich soil can positively impact health, particularly during the winter months when natural exposure to environmental microbiota is low.

Study Overview

The study involved healthy urban adults who participated in indoor gardening activities. These participants were divided into two groups: one group used a microbially rich growing medium, while the other used a visually similar but microbially poor growing medium. The participants were instructed to monitor, harvest, and consume the produce daily over a one-month period.

Key Findings

Enhanced Skin Microbiota: Participants who gardened with the microbially rich soil showed a significant increase in the diversity of their skin microbiota. This included the diversity of five bacterial phyla and one bacterial class, which are essential for maintaining a healthy skin barrier and immune function.

Improved Immune Response:

The study observed an increase in anti-inflammatory cytokine levels, specifically interleukin 10 (IL-10), in the blood of participants using the microbially rich soil. This cytokine plays a crucial role in regulating immune responses

and preventing inflammatory diseases.

No Changes in Control Group:

Participants using the microbially poor growing medium did not show any significant changes in their skin microbiota or cytokine levels, highlighting the importance of microbial diversity in gardening soil.

High Satisfaction and Adherence:

Both groups reported high satisfaction with the gardening experience and expressed a desire to continue gardening in the future. This suggests that indoor gardening is not only beneficial but also enjoyable and easy to integrate into daily routines.

Implications for Health

The study supports the hygiene and biodiversity hypotheses, which propose that regular exposure to environmental microbiota can enhance immune modulation and reduce the risk of immune-mediated diseases, such as allergies. By diversifying skin microbiota and improving immune responses, urban indoor gardening could offer a preventive approach to these health issues.

Recommendations

Given these findings, the researchers recommend the following:

Promote Indoor Gardening:

Encourage indoor gardening as a year-round activity in urban environments to boost microbial exposure and support immune health. This can be particularly beneficial in settings like kindergartens, schools, offices, and nursing homes.

Use Microbially Rich Soil:

Ensure that the soil used for indoor gardening is rich in beneficial mi-

crobes to maximize health benefits. This can be achieved by using composted soil or adding microbial supplements.

Educate on Microbial Benefits:

Raise awareness about the role of beneficial microbes in immune regulation and overall health. Providing information and resources can motivate more people to engage in indoor gardening.

Conduct Further Research:

Continue researching the long-term effects of indoor gardening on immune health and explore its potential benefits for various populations, including those with compromised immune systems.

Conclusion

The study demonstrates that urban indoor gardening can be a practical and effective way to improve health by diversifying skin microbiota and enhancing immune function. As more people become aware of these benefits, indoor gardening could become a popular and health-promoting activity in urban areas.

Original article: Urban indoor gardening enhances immune regulation and diversifies skin microbiota — A placebo-controlled double-blinded intervention study

Mika Saarenpää a b, Marja I. Roslund b, Noora Nurminen c, Riikka Puhakka a, Laura Kummola c, Olli H. Laitinen c, Heikki Hyöty c, Aki Sinkkonen b
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2024.108705>



MUSEUMS



Museums i Vaasa closed on Monday-Tuesday

In accordance with the economic balancing program of the city of Vaasa, the city's museums will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays from June. The change will take effect from June 1, 2024.

The museums in Vaasa affected by the change are:

Museum of Ostrobothnia
Tikanoja art home
Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art
Museum of Old Vaasa

In the past, museums have only been closed on Mondays, but now they remain closed on Tuesdays as well. This change is part of a wider program of measures aimed at balancing the economy of the city of

Vaasa. The goal is to achieve savings of around 40 million euros during the years 2024–2027.

The new opening hours of the museums from Wednesday to Sunday are as follows:

Kuntsi Museum of Modern Art: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Museum of Ostrobothnia: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Tikanoja art home: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
 Old Vaasa Museum: 10 a.m.–5 p.m. (open June 1–August 31, 2024)

The city of Vaasa regrets the possible inconveniences that the new opening hours may cause to residents and visitors, and thanks for

your understanding during the measures to balance the economy. The museums welcome everyone to visit on open days and explore the city's rich cultural heritage and art collections.

Other museums:

Vaasa War Veterans Museum:
 Summer opening hours 4.6. from Tuesday – Friday 10 – 12 and 1 – 4, Saturday 10 – 14.

Vaasa Maritime Museum:

Open
 20.5.-23.8.2024 Mon-Fri at 11:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

CHURCH MUSIC



Music in the Vaasa Church in summer 2024

Evening music Wed 5.6. at 19.30
 Karolin Wargh, organ and Carolina Bjön, baroque cello

Evening music Wed 12.6. at 19.30
 Mariam Junolainen, harp and Vladimir Reshetko, cello

Evening music Wed 19.6. at 19.30
 Liisa Aaltola, organ Water organ

Evening music Wed 26.6. at 19.30
 Seeli Toivio, cello and Pauliina Hyry, organ

Evening music Wed 3.7. at 19.30
 Jouni Somero, piano

Let the Road Meet You concert with three choirs Fri 5.7. at 20.00
 The concert will feature the Lapua Christian College Choir conducted by Maunu Malkamäki, MuSe from Jalasjärvi conducted by Maarja Korts and the National Choir of the Revivalist Association conducted by Petra Perttula. Program €15.

Hymns of Zion from the tower of Vaasa Church - Vaasa Brass Fri 5.7. at 22.00
 Hymns of Zion from the tower of Vaasa Church Vaasa brass conductor. Tarja Viitanen

Event: Messiah Oratory Sat 6.7. at 20.00
 Chamber Choir Canticum Maris, Vaasa Philharmonic Orchestra, soprano Iida Antola, countertenor Teppo Lampela, tenor Tuomas Miettola, bass Jussi Merikanto, bass. The work is conducted by conductor Ruut Kiiski, 8. Choir guide Tarja Viitanen. Tickets 35 €, pensioners 30 €, students and schoolchildren 10 €. Tickets in advance via Nettiket www.netticket.fi and at the door one hour before the concert starts.

Evening music Wed 10.7. at 19.30
 Loviisa Tuomisto, vocals, organ and piano Valtteri Tuomisto, baritone, countertenor, piano and organ

Ukrainian spiritual music and Orthodox hymns
 Fri 12.7. at 18.00
 Male choir music interpreted by the Ukrai-

nian vocal ensemble Canon. In the summer of 2024, the ensemble will present its new concert programme Church Music and Spiritual Songs, which consists of gems from Ukrainian church music, spiritual music and classical music. This program is a new joint musical project by Yuri Ilchuk, a prominent artist in Ukraine, soloist in Canon and the Cherkasy Regional Philharmonic. It's also a unique combination of polyphonic male vocals with a stunning lyrical baritone. The artistic director of the ensemble is Ievgen Valovenko. Free admission!

Evening music Wed 17.7. at 19.30
 Albert Sahlström, violin Saima Malmivaara, cello Isabella Pätiälä, piano

Evening music Tue 23.7. at 19.30
 Silent film Ostrobothnia with improvised music by organist Jimi Järvinen

Evening music Wed 7.8. at 19.30
 Monica Heikius, soprano Pertti Ahonen, clarinet Birgitta Forsman, organ
 Source: The Finnish Congregation

ROAD CHURCHES

Finding Refuge on the Road

Finding Refuge on the Road: A Look at Europe's Road Churches

For centuries, churches have served as places of solace and spiritual renewal for communities. But in modern Europe, a unique concept has emerged: road churches. These are churches specifically designed or adapted to welcome travelers, offering a haven for prayer, reflection, or simply a peaceful break from the journey.

Germany: The Pioneering Nation

Germany is credited with birthing the road church concept. The first one is believed to have opened decades ago in Baden-Baden, offering a pit-top for weary travelers on the Autobahn. These Autobahn chapels, as they're sometimes called, often boast distinctive architecture, creating a visually striking landmark alongside the highway.

Finland's Extensive Network

Finland has embraced the road church concept with remarkable enthusiasm. Boasting over 200 road churches scattered across the country, they provide a haven for travelers, particularly during the summer months. While some close during the winter, a dedicated few remain open year-round, offering a warm and welcoming space for all.

Beyond Borders: The Spread of Road Churches

While Germany and Finland have the most well-established networks, the concept of road churches is gradually gaining traction in other European countries. Austria, Hungary, and the Netherlands are just a few examples where you can find these traveler-friendly places of worship. Are There Road Churches in the USA? Currently, the concept of dedicated road churches isn't as widespread in



the United States. However, there are examples of churches along major highways that offer similar hospitality to travelers. Some have designated rest areas or open their doors for prayer and contemplation. Additionally, truck stops often have chapels or designated quiet spaces that cater to travelers on the road.

A Beacon for the Modern Traveler

In an age of fast-paced travel, road churches offer a valuable service. They provide a place for weary travelers to find a moment of peace, re-connect with their faith, or simply appreciate a beautiful space. The unique architecture and welcoming atmosphere make them more than just rest stops; they're cultural landmarks and testaments to the enduring power of spiritual connection.

Here's how to find the Road Churches!

In Finland, more than 260 Road Churches open their doors to visitors in the summer. Many of these churches are easily accessible by following the white Road Church signs along the road-side. Before your trip, however, you should take a look at the Tiekirkot.

fi website, where you can find detailed information about road churches.

- You can search for Road Churches using the map search and selecting your own summer vacation route to see which churches fall along the way.
- You can also browse the list of Road Churches and search for churches by location or church type (wooden, concrete and stone churches). Church opening hours vary, so always check our website on the church's own page. Most churches are open from 5.6.–20.8. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., but some Road Churches serve visitors all year round. Churches may offer worship services as well as other events such as concerts and meditation. Finland's first Road Churches opened in the early 1990s, initially in a few churches in Northern Finland. The idea of open-door churches, which originated in Germany, has since become widespread. Both Evangelical Lutheran and Orthodox churches are involved, and new churches join every year. In addition, you can find information about Road Churches on Facebook and Instagram on account @tiekirkot. Follow Road Churches on social media and admire people's church spotting with the hashtag #tiekirkko. A road church awaits you along the way – stop and enjoy a different resting place.



Lähialueemme tiekirkkoja

ROAD CHURCH



The Church in Vaasa

Vaasa Church is a neo-Gothic church designed by County Architect C. A. Setterberg, completed in 1862. The church is one of the most significant historical buildings in Vaasa, showcasing the finest of neo-Gothic architecture.

Altarpieces and Artworks

The church's most valuable painting is the altarpiece "Adoration of the Shepherds" by Albert Edelfelt, painted in 1894. To the left of this piece is R.W. Ekman's altarpiece "The Last Supper" from 1861, and to the right, L. Sparre's painting "The Burial of Christ" from 1897. Together, these artworks create an impressive and spiritual atmosphere within the church's interior.

Organs and Instruments

Vaasa Church features a main organ with 45 stops from Marcussen & Son and a chancel organ with 4.5 stops from Ryde & Berg. Additionally, the church houses a grand piano and an electric piano, enabling a diverse range of musical activities.

Sound System and Technology

The church is equipped with a high-quality sound system with mixers, an induction loop, and AV equipment. Sunday services are broadcast on the radio to reach a wider audience. There is also a surveillance camera system in the church for enhanced security.

Opening Hours and Services

Vaasa Church is open from June 11 to August 9, 2024, from Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

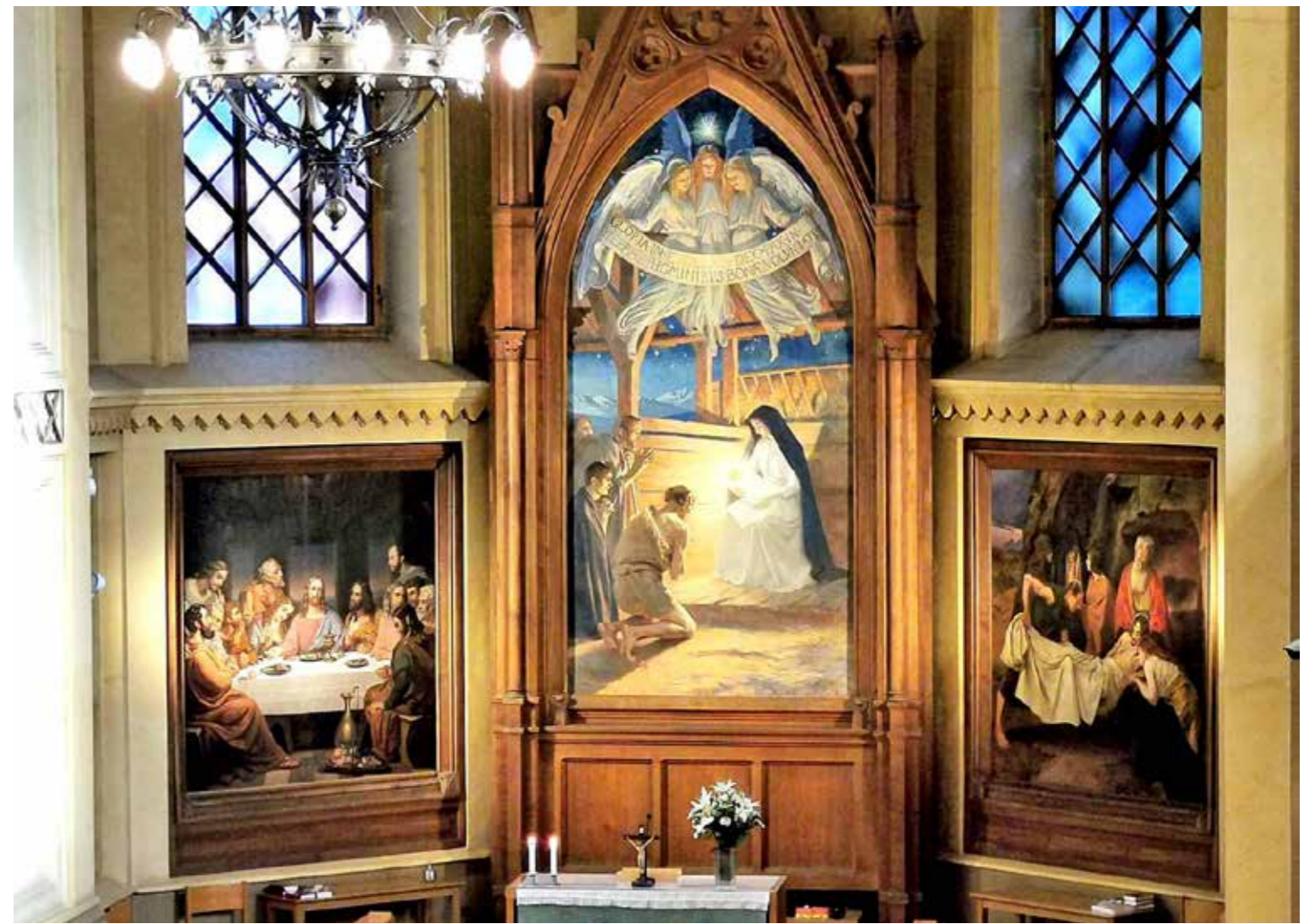
Services are held on Sundays as follows:

- Finnish service at 10 am
- Swedish service at 1 pm

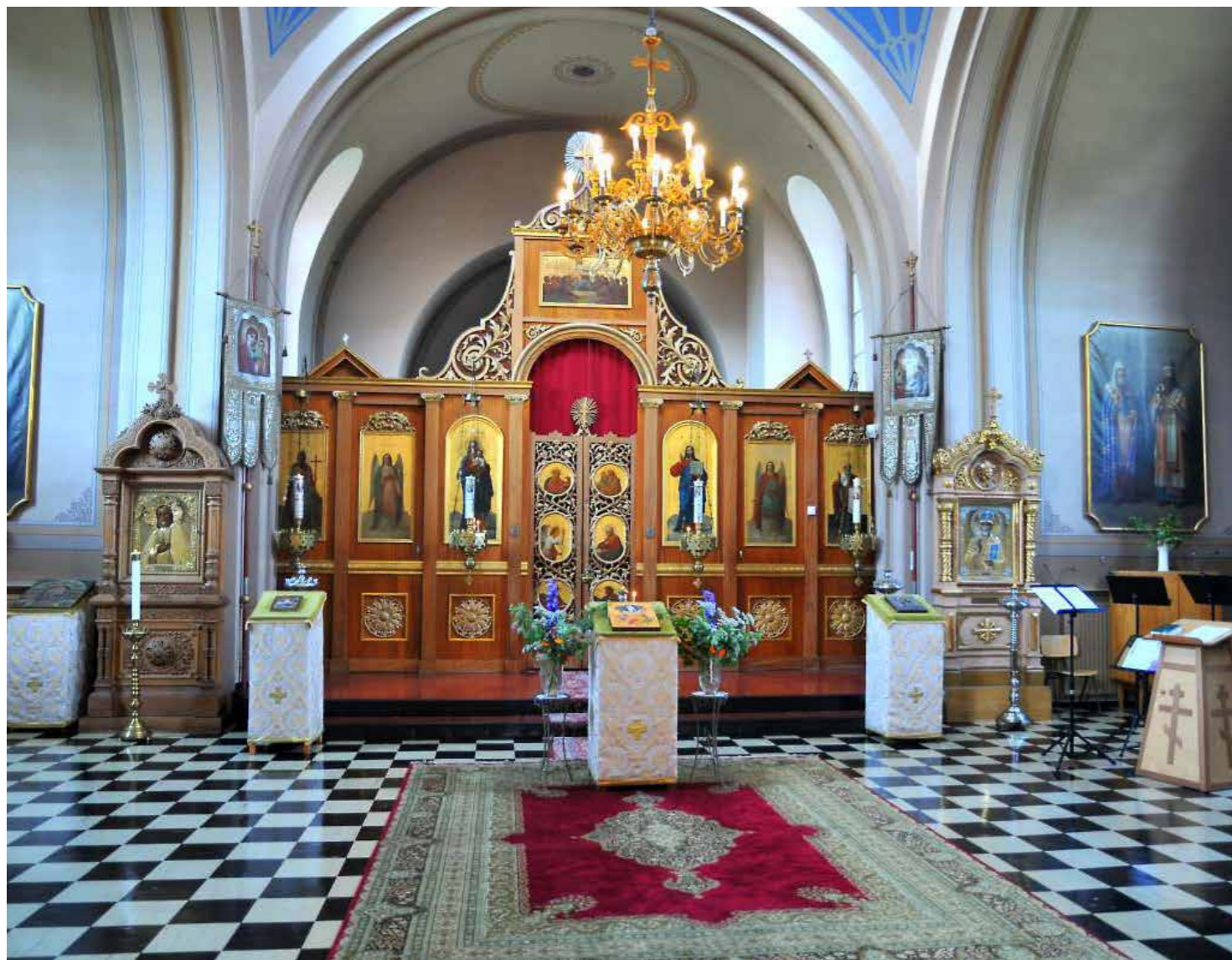
Other Events

A guide is available in the church from June 11 to August 9, 2024, from Tuesday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. A bilingual devotion is held on Thursdays at 1 pm. Additionally, there is an evening music series and other events. More information about events can be found at vaasansuomalainenseurakunta.fi/tapahtumat.

Address: Kirkkopuistikko 24, 65100 Vaasa



ROAD CHURCH



St. Nicholas Church (Vaasa)

St. Nicholas Church in Vaasa is a stunning example of English Gothic architecture, designed by architect Carl Axel Setterberg. The church was consecrated on September 9, 1866 (according to the old calendar) in honor of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker.

Interior and Furnishings

The church's interior and furnishings are mainly donations from merchant Lisizin and church items acquired from St. Petersburg. The iconostasis was constructed based on drawings by Professor G. Solnzev of the St. Petersburg Academy of Arts. The chandelier in the church hall is a gift from the Valamo Monastery after our recent wars.

Open

Open: June 25 - August 2, 2024, Mon-Fri 11:00-16:00

Services

Tue, August 6, 2024, 10:00: Liturgy. Transfiguration of Christ. Welcome to the service!

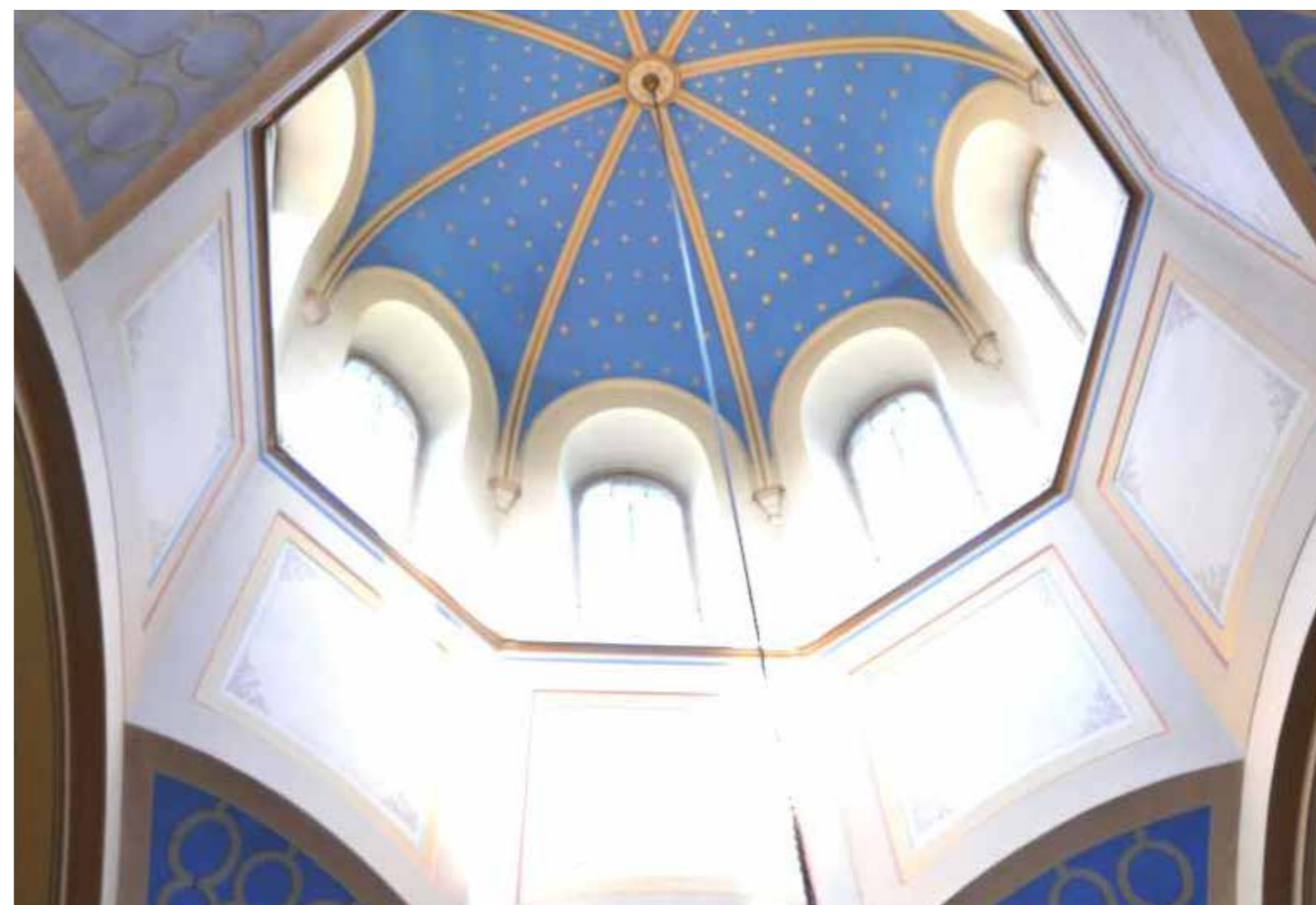
Address

Nikolainkuja 1, 65100 Vaasa

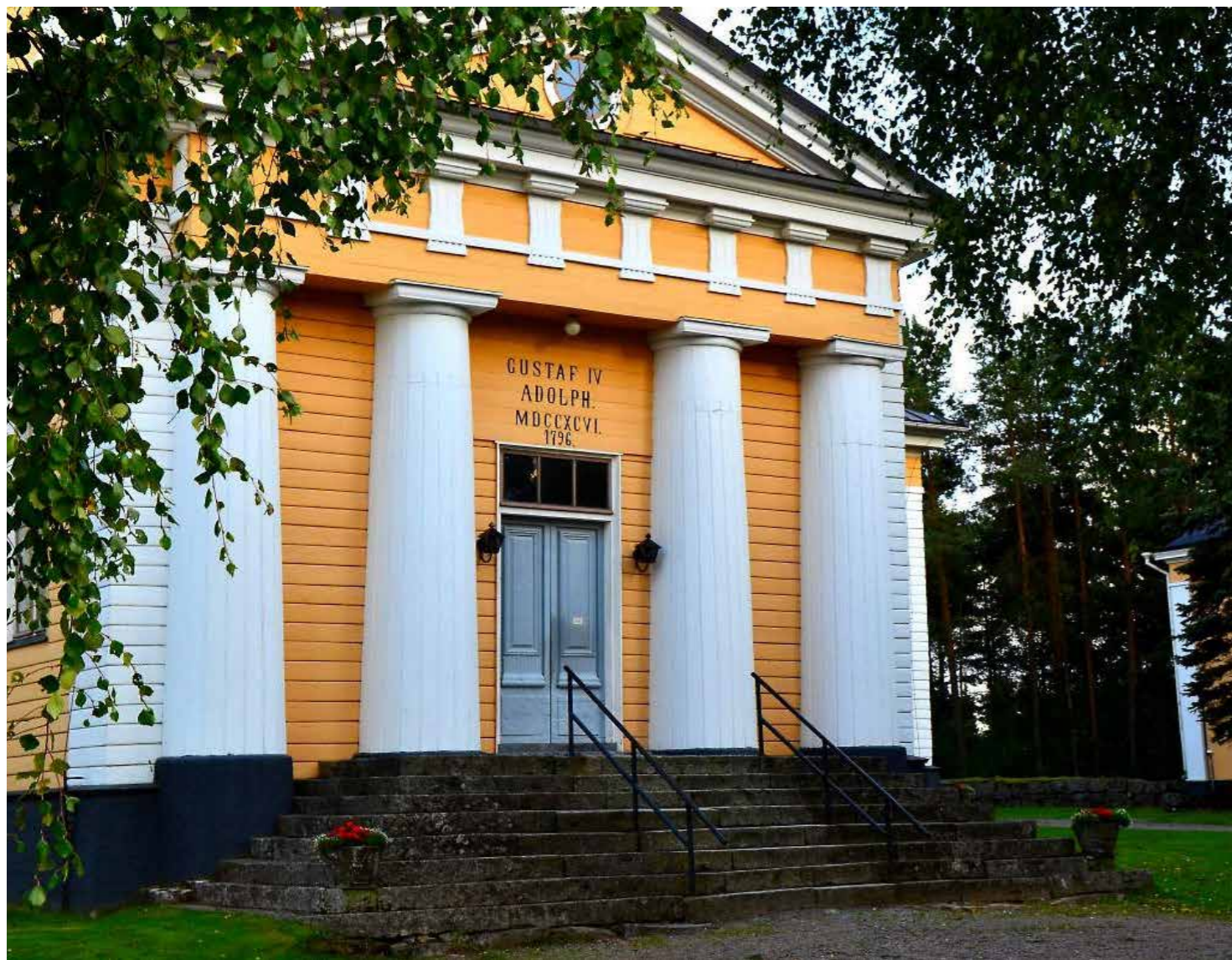
Other Events

Mon, July 29, 2024: Korsholm Music Festival: Papa Bach and Father Mozart

Welcome to visit St. Nicholas Church and enjoy its peaceful atmosphere and beautiful architecture!



ROAD CHURCH



Oravais Church - A Historical Gem

The Oravais Church, built between 1796-97, stands as a timeless testament to Finland's rich church-building tradition. The design of the church is based on a proposal by the renowned church builder Jacob Rijf from Nykarleby, giving the building its unique architectural charm. The church underwent extensive renovations most recently from 2002-2004, helping to preserve its historical beauty for future generations.

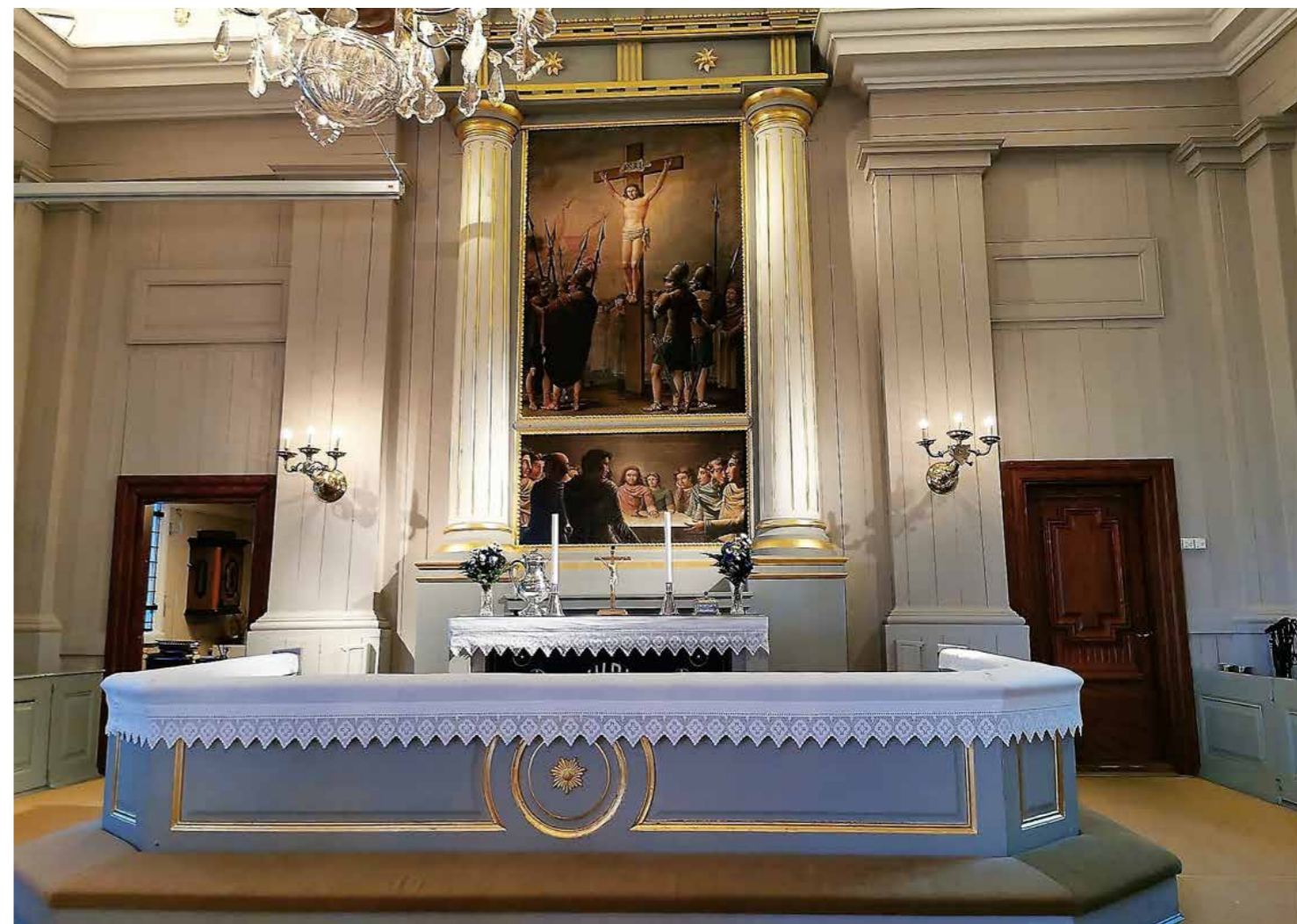
The church's organ, delivered by B.A. Thulé, has played a central role in the church's musical life since September 1879. It was last enhanced and expanded in 1969 by Hans Heinrich from Maxmo and now features 21 stops, making it an impressive element of the church's interior.

The pulpit, crafted by master builder Natanael Rönnblad from Pörtom in 1816, and the altarpiece from 1820, painted by Johan Erik Lind from Kokkola, both add to the church's aesthetic and spiritual atmosphere. The two-part altarpiece, depicting "The Institution of the Eucharist" and "The Crucifixion," provides a strong backdrop for the congregation's most important ceremony, the Holy Communion.

The church is open to visitors from July 3rd to July 21st, 2023, Monday to Friday from 12 PM to 4 PM. Current service times, held at 10 AM, 12 PM, or 6 PM, can be found on the parish's website. The church's address is Kimovägen 19, 66800 Oravais.

In addition to regular services, the church also hosts other events. Evening music in Vörå Parish takes place on Wednesdays at 7 PM from May 31st to August 16th. More information about these events can be found on the parish's website.

The Oravais Church, a wooden church designed by Jakob Rijf, continues to serve as a central place for worship and community in the Vörå parish. Visitors are always welcome to experience its rich history and partake in the life of the church.



ROAD CHURCH



Church of the Holy Cross (Hattula Old Church)

This historic church has stood on Vanajaveden beach since the late 15th century and welcomes visitors who want to immerse themselves in its medieval history, admire the vibrant murals from the 1510s, or simply seek tranquility.

The church has been an important international pilgrimage destination since the Middle Ages. It is likely that already at the beginning of the 15th century there was a wooden church on the site, and perhaps several generations of wooden churches before the current brick church was built. Although Hattula is not directly on Hämeen Härkätie, one of the old trade routes, the church could be reached via its eastern route.

Several of the church's characteristics make it unique. One of these is the unusual building material for the Middle Ages, brick, which connects the church to Hämeen linna. Brick construction at Hämeen linna probably began in the 14th century and continued until the 16th century. One of the brick sites for Hämeen linna was in Herniäinen, near Pyhän Ristin kirkko.

Opening hours and guided tours

Pyhän Ristin kirkko is open daily from May 11 to August 18, 2024, at 11–17. The church is closed during the Midsummer weekend (21–22 June 2024) and during church ceremonies. Admission is free.

Guided tours in Finnish are held daily at 11:00, 12:30, 14:00 and 15:30. The cost of a guided tour is €4 per adult and each tour holds 30 people. Advance booking is not possible, and the tours are not available for groups. Check the current times for church ceremonies on the parish website, as guided tours are not held during these times.

Church services

Mass/service is held in the church every Sunday from June 30 to August 25, 2024 at 10:00. Because of this, the first guided tour is held these days at 12:30 p.m.



ROAD CHURCH



Historic Laihia Church: An Architectural Gem of Early Neoclassicism

The Laihia Church, an architectural treasure located in Laihia east of Vaasa, stands as a remarkable example of early neoclassicism in Finland. The church, designed and built between 1803 and 1805, reflects the vision of Herman Höckert, a councilman from Vaasa, and the plans approved by the Office of the Superintendent in Stockholm in 1797.

Architectural Highlights

The church's layout features an equal-armed cross, a classic design element of neoclassical architecture. Extending from the western arm of the cross is a tall, rectangular tower. A unique feature of the Laihia Church is the small roof lantern rising from the center of the cross. Notably, this church is one of approximately twenty in Finland where the tower is adorned with a rooster.

The walls of the church are unadorned, showcasing beautifully carved logs that add a rustic charm to its interior. The church features a hipped roof with a rounded wooden vault ceiling. With seating capacity for 1,200 people, it serves as a significant gathering place for the community.

Accessibility

The Laihia Church is committed to accessibility. There is a lift located at the southern end of the church, ensuring easy entry for all visitors during events. An induction loop system is installed to assist those with hearing aids, enhancing their auditory experience during services.

For wheelchair users, the central aisle provides the best seating, offering a clear view and excellent acoustics. Additionally, chairs are available along the central aisle for those using walkers. While the main entrance houses non-accessible restrooms, accessible facilities are available at the parish hall nearby.

Visiting Information

The Laihia Church welcomes visitors during the summer from June 10 to August 2, 2024, Monday to Friday from 12 PM to 4 PM. Regular services are held every Sunday at 10 AM, providing an opportunity to experience the spiritual and historical ambiance of this distinguished wooden church.

Contact and Location



CHURCH



Views from the Tower of Kallio Church

Kallio Church, located in the Kallio district of Helsinki, is an impressive granite building. It serves as the main church for the Kallio parish (the other church being Alppila Church). Designed by architect Lars Sonck, the church exemplifies the national romantic style combined with international Art Nouveau influences. This style is characterized by the use of traditional Finnish materials, robust architectural forms, and nature-inspired motifs and colors.

This summer, the public has a unique opportunity to visit the 65-meter-high tower of Kallio Church, offering breathtaking views over all of Helsinki. On a clear day, it is even possible to see as far as Estonia, although this was not the case during our visit today.

Visits to Kallio Church's tower are available from Wednesday to Friday through a booking system, and on Saturdays by queuing between 11:00 and 17:00. The tour costs 10 euros. Access to the tower requires visitors to be at least 18 years old and not easily winded by climbing stairs.

This unique experience offers both locals and tourists the chance to see Helsinki from a new perspective and enjoy the beauty of the city from above.





ART



Mysterious moss giants take over Lasipalatsi Square

A green moss giant with skis and poles has arrived at Amos Rex's domes, ready to explore unfamiliar terrain. Wanderer sees the world as being best explored by travelling, but also with the sense of touch – especially the touch of the hand. That may be why the giant is moving two fingers across the palm of his other hand, forming the sign that means to walk or to wander.

Friendship and Bringer of Light – are on their way home to the forest. During the summer, they will take a break at Lasipalatsi Square, after which they will gradually continue to their final destination: a leafy forest glade at Amos Anderson's summer residence, Söderlångvik manor on Kimito Island. There they will stay permanently, gradually becoming part of the forest ecosystem.

"I had a vision of a large moss figure in the forest, so people would accidentally meet a friendly giant in the woods. That dream will now become a reality, with the four giants moving to a forest glade at Söderlångvik," Simonsson says.

The moss giants will be discoverable in the forest at Söderlångvik from spring 2025 onwards.

Simonsson describes his giants as utopian moss children. He has given each individual in the group their own specific task, with each task being equally important. One carries tools, while another has skis on his back. It is also worth paying attention to the moss giants' hands, which play an important role: they communicate with each other, and with the outside world in sign language.

Wanderer is one of four bright-green, giant-like figures who have temporarily set up camp in the courtyard at Lasipalatsi Square and on the terrace of Bio Rex. Kim Simonsson's (b. 1974) are about four metres high and communicate with each other through Finnish sign language. They have been acquired for Konstnämnden, which has one of Finland's most extensive private art collections.

The moss giants' long journey home passes through the centre of Helsinki

The giants – Wanderer, Collector,

Sculptor Kim Simonsson lives and works in the artists' village of Fiskars in Western Uusimaa. He has been working with ceramic moss figures for almost a decade – the moss giants are his most large-scale works so far.

The Moss Giants will be at Lasipalatsi Square 29 April–20 October 2024. The exhibition is curated by Kai Kartio.

Sign language is for everyone

Sign language is a visual language used by deaf, hard-of-hearing, and hearing people. It consists of various signs, combining facial expressions, hand body and mouth movements. Two different sign languages are used in Finland: Finland-Swedish and Finnish Sign Language, which is also used by Kim Simonsson's Moss Giants.

Spring exhibitions

Amos Rex's Spring exhibitions offer experiences for our emotions and all of our senses – the first-ever collections exhibition I feel, for now and Josefiina Nelimarkka's studio exhibition The Cloud of Un/knowing. The exhibitions are open 27 March – 8 Sept 2024. (Source: Amos Rex)



EXHIBITION



Collection manager Auli Jämsänen shows one of the exhibition's fascinating objects, the »King's Chair«



Treasures from Our Land and the High Seas: Renewed Collection Exhibition Opened at Ostrobothnia Museum on June 8th

The Ostrobothnia Museum in Vaasa, Finland will open its renewed Treasures from Our Land and the High Seas collection exhibition on June 8th. The exhibition showcases the diverse collection amassed by Vaasa couple Karl and Elin Hedman, encompassing local cultural heritage from Ostrobothnia as well as foreign and domestic art treasures, silver, and ceramics.

Karl Hedman was a wealthy businessman and art collector who gathered objects for his collection not only

from Ostrobothnia but also from around the world. The exhibition features items such as porcelain made in China, furniture, clocks, and musical instruments from Sweden, and objects crafted by local artisans, including Mårten Hammarström's pewter mugs and pitchers and paperweights from the Benvik ceramics factory.

The exhibition offers a unique glimpse into the wealth of the coastal region during the 18th and 19th centuries and how, thanks to maritime trade, valuable objects from around the world arrived in the Ostrobothnia region. The exhibition also features some original display groups that have been restored, allowing visitors to get a sense of how the co-

llector himself designed the exhibition, free from chronology, taking into account aesthetic considerations.

Curator Auli Jämsänen from the Ostrobothnia Museum says: »A few other original display groups have also been restored for the exhibition. With their help, visitors can get a feel for how the collector himself designed the exhibition, free from chronology, taking into account aesthetic considerations.«

The Treasures from Our Land and the High Seas exhibition will be open at the Ostrobothnia Museum from June 8th, 2024. The exhibition is definitely worth seeing for anyone interested in Ostrobothnia's history, culture, and art.



HEALTH

Female Doctors Cure Patients Better?

In a groundbreaking study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, researchers have shed light on a fascinating trend in healthcare: patients treated by female doctors tend to have better outcomes compared to those treated by male doctors. This finding is significant, particularly as it highlights the nuanced ways in which gender can influence medical care and patient health.

Study Overview

The study, conducted by a team of esteemed researchers including Atsushi Miyawaki, MD, PhD, Anupam B. Jena, MD, PhD, Lisa S. Rotenstein, MD, MBA, MSc, and Yusuke Tsugawa, MD, MPH, PhD, analyzed Medicare claims data from 2016 to 2019. This large-scale retrospective observational study included a 20% random sample of fee-for-service beneficiaries hospitalized with various medical conditions, focusing on outcomes such as 30-day mortality and readmission rates.

Key Findings

The study examined 458,108 female and 318,819 male patients, with 31.1% of female and 30.6% of male patients treated by female physicians. The primary outcomes revealed that both female and male patients had lower mortality rates when treated by female physicians. However, the benefit was notably more pronounced for female patients.

Female Patients: The adjusted mortality rates for female patients tre-

ated by female physicians were 8.15%, compared to 8.38% for those treated by male physicians. This translates to an average marginal effect (AME) of -0.24 percentage points, which is statistically significant.

Male Patients: For male patients, the adjusted mortality rates were 10.15% for those treated by female physicians versus 10.23% for those treated by male physicians, with an AME of -0.08 percentage points. While this indicates a slight improvement, it is not statistically significant.

The patterns were similar for readmission rates, further underscoring the potential benefits of care provided by female physicians.

Significance of the Findings

These findings prompt a deeper exploration into why female physicians might be achieving better patient outcomes. Potential factors could include differences in communication styles, adherence to clinical guidelines, or even a more patient-centered approach to care that female doctors might employ.

Communication and Empathy: Studies have shown that female doctors often spend more time listening to their patients and are more empathetic. This can lead to a better understanding of patient needs and more tailored treatments.

Adherence to Guidelines: Female physicians are often found to be more diligent in following clinical guidelines, which can improve patient outcomes by ensuring that the best practices are consistently applied.

Patient-Centered Care: Female doctors may be more likely to engage in shared decision-making with their patients, fostering a collaborative environment that can lead to better health outcomes.

Broader Implications

The implications of these findings are far-reaching. For healthcare institutions, this research suggests that fostering a diverse workforce and supporting female physicians can have a tangible positive impact on patient care. It also highlights the importance of considering gender dynamics in medical training and professional development.

Limitations

It's important to note that the study's findings may not be generalizable to younger populations, as the data was derived from Medicare beneficiaries, who are typically older. Further research is needed to determine if these trends hold true across different age groups and healthcare settings.

Conclusion

The study's conclusion is clear: patients, particularly women, experience lower mortality and readmission rates when treated by female physicians. While the exact reasons behind these improved outcomes require further investigation, this research underscores the critical role that female doctors play in enhancing patient care. As the healthcare industry continues to evolve, these insights should inspire efforts to support and empower female physicians, ultimately benefiting patients nationwide.



TRAFFIC



New Kaisantunneli tunnel opened for cyclists and pedestrians in Helsinki

The new Kaisantunneli tunnel in the heart of Helsinki opened its doors to cyclists and pedestrians on Sunday 4 May 2024, just in time for the start of National Cycling Week. The approximately 220-metre-long tunnel runs under the railway yard of Helsinki railway station and connects Kaisaniemi Park with Oodi and Kansalaistori square. In the old days, the cycling distance between these points south of the railway station was 600 metres. And at several traffic lights we had to wait.

The tunnel has been designed especially with the needs of cyclists in

mind, but it is also possible to walk through it. It has its own bike lane, a bike lift and a parking space for about a thousand bikes called the Bike Garage. However, this is not yet open. In the future, a bicycle repair shop will also be located in Pyörätalli.

For pedestrians, the tunnel offers an unobstructed and easy access to Kaisaniemi Park and Oodi. Stairs have been built at the Oodi end of the tunnel to access the train platforms. 40 bike frame locking racks have also been built on the Kaisaniemi park side.

The construction of the Kaisantunneli has taken three years and its costs have risen from the original EUR 25 million to EUR 32 million. However, the project has gone according to plan and there have been no disruptions in traffic.

The new Kaisantunneli tunnel is a significant improvement to the traffic system in the heart of Helsinki, and it will certainly make it easier for cyclists and pedestrians to move around.

Map: © OpenStreetMap kartoittajat



SLOT MACHINES

THL: In the most vulnerable residential areas, the most money is lost on slot machines in their own area

In areas where deprivation is common, most money is lost on gambling machines in one's own neighbourhood, according to a study by THL. The availability of slot machines, i.e. the number of machines relative to the number of inhabitants, is also highest in the most deprived postal code areas, although the number of slot machines has decreased significantly overall.

In the study, deprivation referred to the low income level of the area, the high proportion of residents with only comprehensive school education, and the high unemployment rate. The data for the study are from 2022, when the total number of slot machines in mainland Finland was approximately 12,000. The number of vending machines had fallen by as much as 10,000 from the previous review carried out in 2018–2019.

In residential areas where deprivation is common and there are many vending machines, losses per capita are the highest. The availability of vending machines is most strongly linked to the low income and education level of the area's residents.

"You can think of this as a kind of vicious circle. The more deprivation there is in a residential area, the more people spend on slot machines and the more frequently there

are machines in the area. Money lost further increases inequality and the risk of gambling harm," says Senior Researcher Jani Selin from THL.

"The number of slot machines has decreased considerably due to mandatory identification and the pandemic, when shops, for example, removed them from their premises. However, vending machines are still more available in deprived residential areas," Selin continues.

More detailed regulation of the placement of slot machines needed According to the Lotteries Act, the placement of slot machines must be designed so that the inconvenience caused by playing them is as low as possible. In Finland, the decentralisation model of slot machines is used, i.e. they are placed in everyday environments, such as shops, petrol stations and kiosks. There are also slot machines in separate gaming halls.

"The wording of the Lotteries Act on minimising harm is not realised in light of the results of our study, even though the placement of slot machines has been discussed for years," says Research Manager Susanna Raisamo from THL.

The Government Programme states that the possibility of moving the vending machines to separate premises will be investigated. The need for clarification has also been mentioned in the decision to set up the

ongoing gambling system project.

According to THL researchers, stricter regulation of the placement of slot machines is justified in order to reduce the harmful effects of gambling and regional inequality.

"As long as the placement of slot machines is not regulated but the decisions are made independently by the gaming company and based on business criteria, the concentration of slot machines in vulnerable residential areas will continue," Raisamo estimates.

First study of its kind

The study combined Statistics Finland's population data at the regional level with detailed consumption data on slot machine gambling. The results are internationally unique.

As far as we know, this is the first study based on accurate data on local residents' gaming consumption of slot machines in their area," Selin describes.

In addition, research results for Espoo, Helsinki and Vantaa will be published later this year.

"Our future research results will be based on region-level socio-economic data and anonymised gaming consumption data, so they will provide even more accurate information on the connection between slot machine availability, gaming consumption and socio-economic factors," says researcher Pasi Okkonen from THL. (THL.FI)



TOVE JANSSON



The documentary "Tove Jansson and the Ten Virgins" produced by Moomin Characters will premiere during the Opera Week in Teuva

TOVE TEUVALLA (Tove in Teuva) – an opera with an interesting side programme.

The new opera Tove Teuvalla, produced by the Korsholm Music Festival, will be accompanied by a wide programme of side events focusing on Tove Jansson and the construction of the new church in Teuva. Tove Jansson's unique masterpiece, The Altar Painting in Teuva, gives a new perspective on the beloved artist and the small rural town. Moomin Characters and Tove Jansson's estate have produced a documentary about Tove Jansson's time in Teuva, "Tove Jansson and the Ten Virgins". Jansson painted the altarpiece in Teuva Church during her frantically creative period in the early 1950s, and it was the only sacred painting of her career. The work takes place at a time when Jansson painted dozens of murals around Finland, wrote and illustrated Moomin stories and worked in the theatre. The travelling exhibition Elsi and Tove's Journey, about the design and art of Teuva (Östermark) Church, opens at Orrella Cultural Centre on 2 July and is on display until 11 August.

The exhibition gives a broad presentation of Teuva Church, its architecture and art by Elsi Borg and Tove Jansson, as well as other important female designers.

Tove Jansson and the Ten Virgins - documentary about Tove Jansson's only altarpiece "Tove Jansson and the Ten Virgins" is a documentary film about the dramatic fire in the old church in Teuva, the construction of the new church and the painting of the altarpiece, as well as about Tove Jansson's time in Teuva. The film takes part in contemporary memories of Jansson and delves into the artist's thoughts on various painting techniques through notes in workbooks and letters.

It also gives a picture of the mood in Finland in the 1940s and 1950s and the role of public art in the reconstruction of a country that was in ruins. "It was the worst working conditions I've ever experienced, but it was fun to do something serious," Tove says about her work in the middle of a church building in Teuva.

The documentary, which is packed with archival material, is almost an hour long. In addition to photos and letters written by Jansson, the documentary contains a wealth of interview material.

Actress Alma Pöysti gives Tove Jansson a voice in the documentary. Pöysti was recently nominated for a Golden Globe and also starred in the 2020 film Tove.

The documentary is narrated by her brother, actor Oskar Pöysti. "We wanted to show how much work goes into a mural like this. Through Jansson's notes in the workbook and letters, we get a glimpse behind the scenes of her creative process. To visualize them, we have enlisted the help of contemporary artists who have reconstructed the process step by step," says Kira Schroeder, the documentary's director.

"We also wanted to put the altarpiece in a larger context – it is also a story about a somewhat forgotten part of Tove Jansson's career and about the role of public art in the reconstruction of Finland after the war."

The documentary is produced by Moomin Characters and Tove Jansson's estate, with Kira Schroeder, Milla Kallijärvi and Linus Lindholm. The documentary will premiere in Teuva on Saturday 3 August.

The documentary will be screened in the auditorium of the Teuva School Centre, Porvarintie 49, before and after the opera

performances, and tickets are sold via Netticket:

<https://www.netticket.fi/korsholm-music-festival>. The ticket price is 10 euros.

The film screenings in Teuva are organised by Teuvalainen Kulttuurin Tuki in cooperation with the Korsholm Music Festival and there will be a total of 11 screenings: Sat 3.8 at 16.15, Sun 4.8 at 13.15 and 18.00, Thu 8.8 at 16.00 and 17.15, Fri 9.8 at 16.00 and 17.15, Sat 10.8 at 13.15 and 18.00, Sun 11.8 at 13.15 and 18.00.

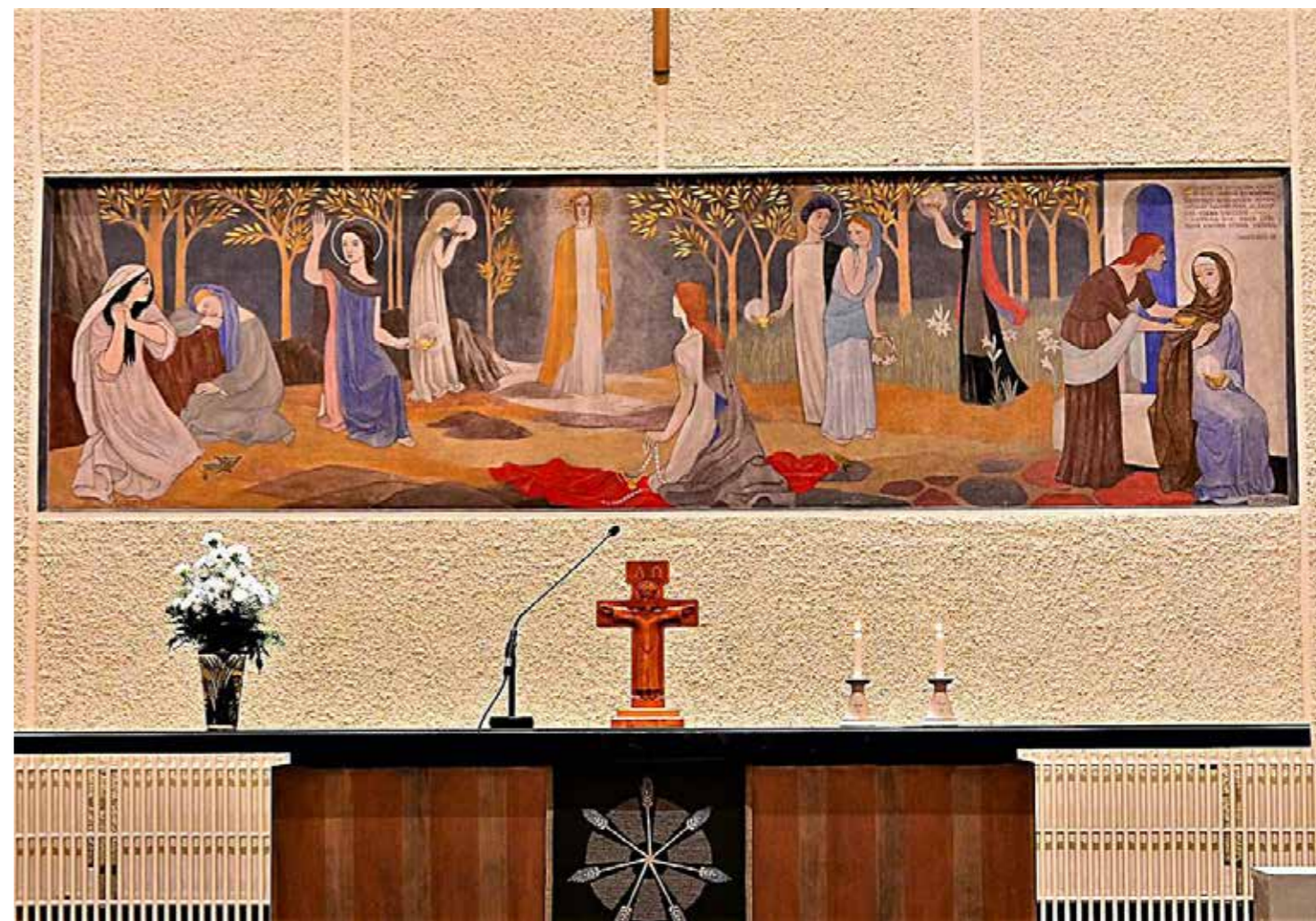
In addition to Opera Week, the documentary will also be screened at the Teuva Youth Association's Kino-Kuva cinema, <https://kinokuva.fi/>.

Elsi and Tove's Journey - an exhibition that gives an image of Teuva Church as a work of art. When the travelling exhibition Elsi and Tove in Teuva is inaugurated, the focus is on Teuva Church, which was designed by Elsi Borg in the early 1950s, and its unique altarpiece, The Ten Virgins, painted by Tove Jansson.

"A full-size reproduction of the altarpiece, executed in al secco technique, is on display, complete with original altarpieces. In our exhibition, visitors can enter an imaginary altar room and study the work up close," says exhibition designer Oskari Luoma, M.Sc.

The exhibition is on display at the Orrella Cultural Centre in Teuva, Porvarintie 51. The exhibition is open 2.7-11.8.2024 from 12 noon to 6 pm (closed on Mondays), with extended opening hours during performances of the opera "Tove Teuvalla". Admission to the exhibition is free of charge.

Press release 18.6.24



BIOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Jane Trygg-Kaipainen -
Monipuolinen vaikuttaja ja luova
tahtonainen**

NAISTEN ÄÄNI Suomi Finland 100

Kuuntele

Jane Trygg-Kaipaisen elämää ohjaa voimakas vaikuttamisen tahto ja epäkohtien korjaaminen.

Lapsuus

Jane on syntynyt Sakari Topeliuksen päivänä Heidekenillä, eli hän on aito turkulainen. Hänen syntymäkotinsa oli Raunistulassa. Isä oli monen sukupolven turkulainen. Äiti oli syntyjään Oulun seudulta. Isä oli sotilapsena ensin Tankassa ja sitten Ruotsissa. Äiti muutti lapsena äitinsä kanssa Ruotsiin. Vanhempien taustan vuoksi perhe koki aina olevansa pohjoismaalaisia. Jane sai viettää yhden kesän Ruotsissa isoäidin

Jane Trygg-Kaipainen



Women's Voice ("Naisten Ääni") project: Stories of a thousand women added to the biographical library

Women's Voice project: Stories of a thousand women added to the biographical library. At least 50 stories related to Vaasa!

The history of Finnish society and culture has largely been built on people's actions and influence, but the role of women in this story has often been neglected. The actions, influences and life experiences of women have been surprisingly little recorded in the collective memory. To change this, the Women's Voice project has been born, which aims to make women's stories and influence part of the Finnish historical narrative.

The Women's Voice online publication, launched in 2017 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Finland's independence, is part of the effort launched by the Finnish Women's League to produce extensive material on the lives of Finnish women and their impact on society. At the heart of the project is the desire to produce and disseminate

information about what women have done, how they have contributed to the development of society, how they have lived and how they have overcome life's challenges.

In spring 2024, the thousandth biography was published, and many more have been added since then. At least fifty stories tell about women from Vaasa or women whose lives are connected to our city.

Mention should be made of a few well-known Vaasa residents whose biography can be found in the Women's Voice library: Irma Rewell, Ritva Hyöky, Eeva Kauppi, Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin, Rosina Heikel,

Diverse participation in the online publication is welcome, and national, local and family women are welcome to participate. The aim is to highlight different stories and experiences: everyday heroines, those who have toiled in organisational work, visible and invisible, loud and silent. We want to compile material that reflects the diverse contribution of Finnish women to society and culture.

You can write new biographical articles for the Women's Voice online publication or copy previously published articles in the journals of women's organisations, as long as the original publisher has permission to republish. In addition, we challenge organisations and individual citizens to participate in collecting and documenting women's stories in their own communities. The aim is to make the Women's Voice project a show of women's strength and at the same time create a unique set of data on the lives of Finnish women.

The Join us page contains more thoughts and ideas on how each of us can participate in the Women's Voice project and make the stories of Finnish women more visible and meaningful. Join us and help us tell the unforgettable stories of Finnish women! The Women's Voice library is online permanently and will also serve researchers for decades to come – or centuries!

Here you can find the Women's Voice biographical library:

<https://www.naistenaani.fi/>

Alexandra Theodora Frosterus-Sältin, unohdettu vaasalainen taiteilija


NAISTEN ÄÄNI Suomi Finland 100

Kuuntele

Kuka on Suomen tunnetuin ja samalla unohdettuin naispuolinen taiteilija? Kenen teoksia miljoonat suomalaiset ovat ihastelleet yli sadan vuoden ajan? Kuka vaasalainen taiteilija on ollut unohdettu kymmenien vuosien ajan ilman, että Vaasassa olisi ainotakaan muistomerkkiä tai patsasta hänelle, puhumattakaan siitä, ettei kaupungissa ole yhtään hänen mukaansa nimettyä katua? Kuka on taiteilija, jonka terveyttä edistävää piirustuksia koululaisemme ovat katselleet 120 vuoden ajan? Kuka naispuolinen taiteilija on inspiroinut Eppu Normaalin koskettavaan lauluun "Murheellisten laulujen maa"? Kuka on vaasalainen taiteilija, jonka piirustukset olivat osasyynä siihen, että Suomessa oli historian alussa kieltolaki? Kuka on vaasalainen taiteilija, jonka taulu on presidentin kansliassa? Tämä kuuluisa taiteilija on tohtori Alexandra Theodora Frosterus-Sältin.

Lapsuus

Alexandra Frosterus syntyi 6. joulukuuta 1837 Inkoossa. Hänen vanhempansa olivat teologian professori Benjamin Frosterus ja Wilhelmina Sofia af Gadolin. Benjamin Frosterus oli syntynyt Pudasjärvellä 28. huhtikuuta 1792. Kalajoen kirkkoherran Johan Frosteruksen ja tämän ensimmäisen vaimon Marian Westzyntiuksen poikana. Robert Frosterus, Kuopion ensimmäinen piispa, oli hänen velipuolensa. Benjamin Frosterus väitelti teologiassa vuonna 1821 ja vihittiin papiksi 1824. Hänestä tuli kirkkohistorian professori vuonna 1829. Benjamin muutti perheineen 1. toukokuuta 1838 Vaasaan. Hänestä tuli silloiselta nimeltään Mustasaaren ja Vaasan seurakunnan kirkkoherra. Alexandra vietti lapsuutensa Hagan pappilassa. Talo seisoo edelleen samalla paikalla lähellä Vanhaa Vaasa ja toimii nykyään Vaasan ruotsinkielisen seurakunnan edustustilana.



Alexandra Theodora Frosterus-Sältin 1860-luvulla (Museolaitos, kuva väritetty)

Alexandra Frosterus-Sältin, an artist from Vaasa

Pali-Maja, Marie Johansdotter Berg - Skrev första dikten om alkoholens negativa sidor

NAISTEN ÄÄNI Suomi Finland 100

Kuuntele

Marie Johansdotter Berg, känd under sin pseudonym Pali-Maja, föddes den 10 december 1784 i Pali, en gårdsgrupp vid Österlandsvägen i Pörtom. Hennes far, Johan Hansson Uppgård, hade flyttat till Pörtom från Pjelas i Närpes, sedan han gift sig med Maria Greta Uppgård och därmed blivit ägare till hälften av ett hemman med namnet Uppgård. Då hemmanet skiftades fick familjen flytta till en äng med namnet Pala eller Pali, ett namn som lever kvar ännu i vår tid. Familjen hade 14 barn, varav 9 klarade sig till vuxen ålder. Isak Smeds berättar om familjen i den diktbok som publicerades år 1882: "Alla barnen var utrustade med klokt huvud och lyckliga anlag att lära allt vad som föll dem i hägen."

Hon avled den 11 oktober 1867 i Närpes. Hon var på sin tid den mest produktiva kvinnliga poeten i vårt land. På sin tid var hon en av de mest aktade personerna i Närpesnejden. År 1882 publicerades en bok innehållande de dikter som återfunnits och i förordet till denna skriver lektor Isak Smeds från Petalax: "Den skaldinna, vars visor otvivelaktigt allmännast sjungas över hela Österbotten och vilken jag i barndomen i min hembygd hört med så stor beundrad och aktning omtalas."

Pali-Maj måste nog ha varit väldigt begåvad, för redan som 18-åring blev hon "skolmästarinna" och i den rollen handhade hon undervisningen av barn i många byar i Närpes. Redan som 18-åring började hon skriva dikter. Som 20-åring besökte hon Stockholm, en resa som gick med båt från Närpes. Hennes medresenärer lär ha betecknat henne som en "sångfågel".

År 1814 födde hon en son vars far var Mats Matsson Snickars från Normäs i Närpes. På den tiden var utomäktenskapliga förbindelser både skamliga och olagliga. Hon fick sota för detta "brott" med böter, men värre var att hon fick lida för sitt skamfilade anseende resten av sitt liv.



Pärmbilden till den diktsamling med Pali-Majas dikter som utgavs år 1882

Pali-Maja, a poem writer from Pörtom, in Swedish

**And here You find the library:
<https://www.naistenaani.fi/>**

LIBRARIES

New national E-library: Expectations and reality far apart

The long-awaited nationwide E-library has finally opened, but it does not live up to expectations at all. The selection of books is very limited and many languages are completely missing. Logging in is difficult and apparently requires online banking credentials every time. The service does not yet correspond at all to the possibilities offered by ordinary libraries.

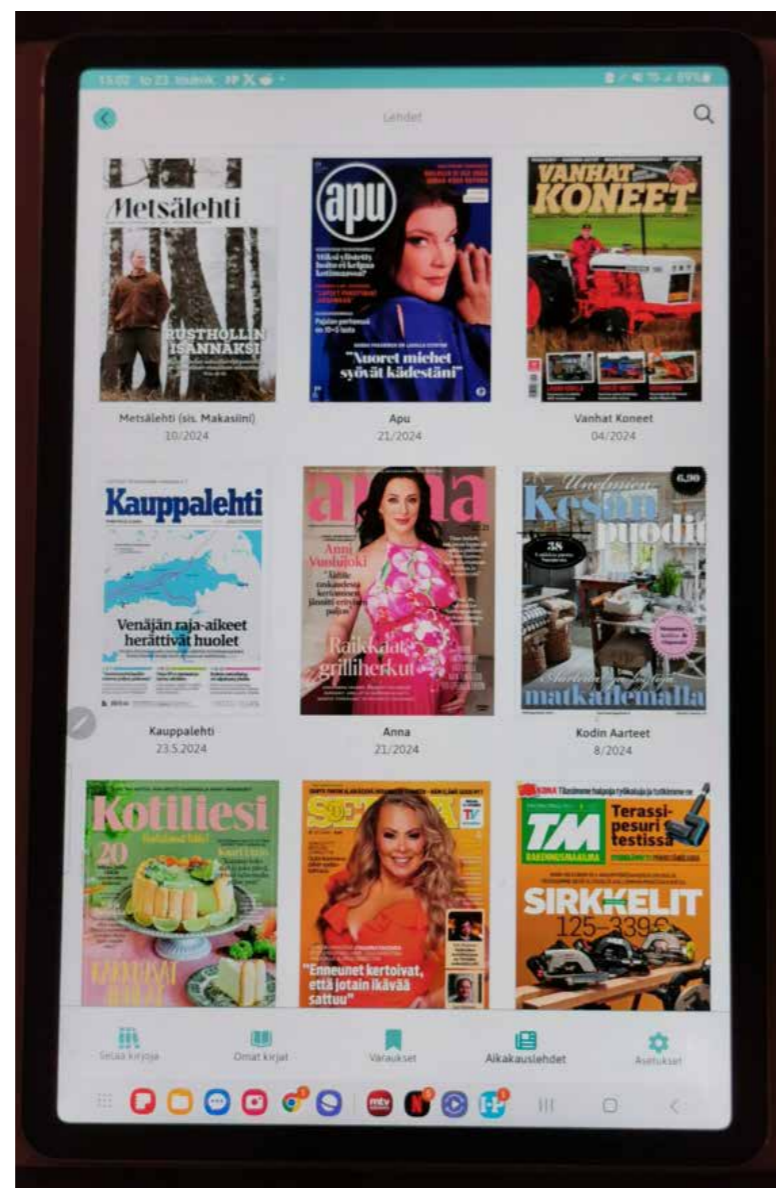
Lack of books and limited selection

There are only hundreds of books in the library, which corresponds to only a small part of the shelves of a real library. The selection of books is also very limited, and there are only a few dozen books in Swedish. It is understandable that many Swedish-speaking municipalities are not involved in the project, but that does not make the service nationwide.

Usage problems and limited availability

Logging in to the e-library is difficult and requires bank codes or something similar every time. A better option would be to have one-time credentials, after which the user would receive automatic access. The only function that succeeds smoothly is the press side. There are several magazines and daily newspapers available, such as Apu Anna, Seura and many hobby magazines, such as TM and MikroBitti. The daily press is published in Kauppalehti and The future of rural areas. The range is nowhere near the level of Press-reader.

About 15% of Finns cannot access the e-library even by paying. This is shameful when talking about nationwide service. Of course, the service is free of charge for everyone else.



Finnish magazines in the new e-library

Lack of additional features

The e-library does not have many of the features that regular libraries offer. For example, there will be no notification of the end of the loan period, and the number of reservations is limited. It can also be difficult to find your favorite books, as not all books are available.

The loan period is 2 weeks. Should we try the Archive.org method in Finland that the loan period is one hour, i.e. you can read the book when you have time, and then borrow it once when it's time? With a short loan period, books would suffice even with a

limited number of books.

The nationwide e-library is disappointing. It does not live up to expectations and is usable only within certain limits. Hopefully, the service will develop in the future and better meet the needs of Finns. The impression is that this has been opened completely unfinished,

The driving force behind the e-library is the National Library of Finland in cooperation with public libraries.

By the way, the other services of the National Library of Finland are world-class. Hardly any other country has such comprehensively digitised historical newspapers and books as Finland,



The National Library of Finland is one of Finland's most important institutions. The monumental building of the National Library of Finland is located opposite Helsinki Cathedral. And we can be sure that the National Library of Finland will get a working version of the E-library for us.



SPORT

Kaleva Games in Vaasa 27-30.6

Vaasa prepares for the Kaleva Games: Karlsplan is being prepared for competition



Kaleva Competition 2018 - 3000 m, Jyväskylä

From left to right: Sandra Eriksson, Camilla Richardsson, Astrid Snäll, Linnea Harala, Lotta Mäkinen, Emma Hakala, Hilikka Kontro, Pihla Hokkanen, Amanda Virtanen, Oona-Mari Hakulinen, Mona Af Forselles, Janna Hautala.

Image Tuomas Vitikainen. Wikimedia Commons.

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The Finnish Athletics Championships, Kalevan, will take place in Vaasa on 27–30 June 2024, according to a press release from the city. It is one of Finland's leading national sports events, and the City of Vaasa has been preparing for the event for several years.

The Kaleva Games are expected to attract about 20,000 visitors to Vaasa.

The implementation of the event requires significant cooperation from the sports clubs in the region. The main organizer is Vaa-

sa Sports Society in cooperation with Palosaaren Urheiluseura, Vaasan Toverit, Vaasan Vasama, Vähänkylän Viesti and IF Femman. Mika Lehtonen, Head of Sports Activities, says that the City of Vaasa has started preparing for the event already several years ago.

One of the most visible improvements is the installation of a new scoreboard at Karlsplan, which replaced the old one last year.

"The new digital scoreboard is a 14.7 x 5.8 metre LED screen, where we can show, in addition to results, live broadcasts from the pitch and replays in slow motion. The old painting was mechanical," says Lehtonen.

"It's quite cold in the main stand because it's in the shade. The glass walls will reduce the draught and wind, Lehtonen explains.

The running tracks on the pitch will be washed and the lines will be repainted. In addition, minor repairs will be carried out across the entire plan, and old power and data cables will be replaced with new ones.

The equipment and equipment on the pitch must also be in good condition for the competition.

"We update equipment such as javelins, bullets, crossbars and scaffolding. After the Kaleva Games, everyone who uses the pitch will be able to benefit from the new equipment, Lehtonen says.

The event will have a significant impact on traffic, and temporary traffic arrangements and parking areas have already been planned for a long time. More information on this will be provided closer to the event.

The Kaleva Games also extend beyond Karlsplan.

"The women's and men's walking competitions will take place on the new pedestrian and cycling track in the beautiful seaside environment of Onkilahti," says Lehtonen.

The Kaleva Games will feature both top national athletes and promising young talents. The competition takes place between the European Championships and the Olympic Games, so it is possible that we will also see Finnish medalists from the European Athletics Championships in Rome at Karlsplan.

"We hope that the people of Vaasa will mark the Kaleva Games on their calendars and gather in large numbers to follow the competitions," says Lehtonen.

RUSSIA'S UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON UKRAINE

The G7 Summit's Key Result for Us Is More Air Defense Systems for Our Cities – Address by the President Volodymyr Zelensky



13.6.2024

Dear Ukrainians!

I have just had a meeting with President Biden, a good meeting, a useful one. Throughout these days, I have been in touch with our military, with a daily report from the Commander-in-Chief, and constant reports from the Minister of Defense, other government officials, and intelligence about the situation at the front, in the main directions in our Donetsk and Kharkiv regions, the needs of our warriors, and the details of supplies.

Today, almost all our meetings here – at the G7 Summit, and on the sidelines of the Summit – are focused on what our military is saying, on our needs and our capabilities right now, if the supply is sufficient and timely. With all the leaders, we are talking about speeding up the delivery of the announced packages to Ukraine. In particular, we have just talked about this with President Biden. Today, I also spoke with Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada, about the new support – thank you, Jus-

tin! I also had a meeting with Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and it will also contribute to the supplies. And a meeting with Fumio Kishida, the Prime Minister of Japan. I also had a good meeting with Giorgia Meloni, the President of the Council of Ministers of Italy. Thank you, Giorgia, for this meaningful summit and for all your support for Ukraine – for Ukrainians, for the protection of our children and families in Ukraine, all those whose lives are under attack from Russian terror.

The key result for us is that there will be more air defense systems for our cities. "Patriots" is practically a Ukrainian word now. There will also be more equipment and other necessary supplies for the front. Decisions have been made regarding the use of Russian assets for the benefit of Ukraine, with the G7 taking a significant first step regarding \$50 billion. Thank you!

We have already signed seven security agreements with all G7 countries. In total, seventeen agreements have already been signed, and we are preparing to sign another ten.

Today, I had a meeting with the IMF Managing Director to discuss support for our state, our institutions, and our society, of course. I am grateful for the understanding. I also had a very inspiring meeting with the President of the World Bank. We discussed, among other things, support for our energy sector, access to the necessary funds for people, companies, and government institutions to restore destroyed energy capabilities and build new ones. I am grateful to the World Bank and personally to its President for the willingness to work on this.

And I would like to thank all our partners today for supporting the Peace Summit and helping to engage leaders and states. Together, the world can definitely restore justice and a just peace. We are doing everything for this. The day after tomorrow the inaugural Peace Summit will take place where we will take the first real step towards a just peace.

Glory to Ukraine!

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POETRY

Bertel Gripenberg, 1927

The Far-away house.

Far away, far away from the worlds foul fray
in the wood, in the wild, wide wood
far away, far away once my homested lay,
my lonely house once stood.

In silence and night, in sunshine and light,
in the days with the golden feet,
in darkness and frighl, in sorrow and plighl
this house was my home, my retreat.

And all my löst years, all the days I hal are gone,
still hover about thal lone house,
my far-away home, thal dreams still alone,
whcre the echos my löst years arouse.

Far away, far away now my footsteps may stray
but my thoughts and dreams linger there,
far from struggle and fray all my soul slill will slay
in that lost, that enchanted sphere.

Bertel Gripenberg: A Traditionalist Poet with a Controversial Legacy

Bertel Gripenberg (1878-1947) was a prominent Finnish-Swedish poet during the early 20th century. While renowned for his formal and technical skills, he held traditional and re-actionary views on poetry and society, making him a controversial figure even in his own time.

Gripenberg's early work, exemplified by collections like "Vida vägar" (1904) and "Galler-grinden" (1905), consisted of passionate love poetry, considered daring for its time. His sub-sequent period, often regarded as his strongest, saw a shift towards ethical themes, evident in works like "Aftnar i Tavastland" (1911).

The Finnish Civil War of 1918 profoundly impacted Gripenberg, inspiring works like "Un-der fanan" (1918), which glorified the war and demonized the Red opponents. This, coupled with his anti-democratic and anti-populist stance, solidified his position as a controversial figure.

Gripenberg continued to publish poetry collections throughout his career, including "Sista ronden" (1941). In 1925, he released "Den hemliga glöden" (under the pseudonym Åke Erik-son), a parody of modernist poetry that inadvertently revealed new facets of his own work.



This weeks astronomical picture:



Antennae galaxies

This NASA Hubble Space Telescope image of the Antennae galaxies (NGC 4038 & 4039) is the sharpest yet of this merging pair of galaxies. During the course of the collision, billions of stars will be formed. The brightest and most compact of these star birth regions are called super star clusters. The two spiral galaxies started to interact a few hundred million years ago.

NASA, ESA, and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)-ESA/Hubble Collaboration

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Next week:



From our readers

We very much welcome submissions from our readers. Comments, stories, memories, debate, news from home. Probably this will be the most important part of this spring paper. But space is limited, so please write as short as possible! So please send posts to: wasadagblad@gmail.com

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