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## Finnish Coops in Brooklyn New York, are Historic Sites

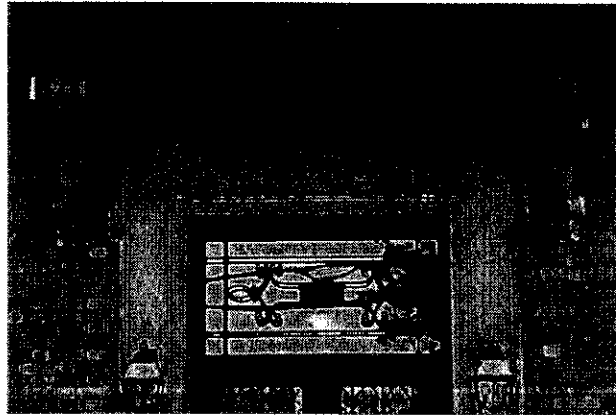
Brooklyn, NY  
Amerikan Uutiset  
Robert A. Saasto

The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is a state agency within the New York State Executive Department charged with the operation of state parks and historic sites within the United States and New York State. As of 2014, the agency manages 335,000 acres of public lands and facilities and 35 historic sites. There are now an additional historic site.

On March 21, 2019, on Peebles Island in Waterford, upstate New York, the Review Board of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, voted unanimously to recommend Alku & Alku Toinen for nomination to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Both Alku 1 and Alku 2, 816 and 826 43rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, will be formally listed on the State Register. The application has been mailed to the National Park Service.

It is anticipated that in the summer of 2019 the National Register of Historic Places will also approve the listing of the first two Finnish coop buildings in the USA to be included on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Robert Alan Saasto, Esq., born in Finntown in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn, NY, was very active in the process of



Alku 1 and Alku 2 were the first co-ops built by Finns  
build in Brooklyn more than hundred years ago.

munity were submitted with the application. They included the following: Finnish American Lawyers Association by Robert Alan Saasto, Esq., President; Amerikan Uutiset by Mikko Koskinen, Editor; The Finlandia Foundation New York Chapter by Eero Kilpi, President; Finland Center Foundation by Jaana Rehnstrom, President; and Finnish Sibelius Masonic Lodge by Robert Alan Saasto, Trustee.

The Board of Alku 1 and Alku 2 worked very hard to get the historical designation. Valerie Landriscina, a licensed architect, was very active in securing the hard data necessary for the application for historical designation. Robert Alan Saasto proposed to her the following questions via e-mail and received the following answers:

1) What inspired you to take on this great project? Was it to preserve the architectural status or to memorialize the Finnish connection or both or

mestone elements and that Holmgren's playful brick patterns were duplicated. Holmgren's brick patterns at Alku Toinen's parapet wall were like his maker's mark. I can clearly identify his other buildings in the neighborhood.

2) I know there are no longer any Finns in Alku 1 but does that apply to Alku 2 as well?

Unfortunately, our last Finnish member this passed away summer. Her name was Greta Tolamaa. Greta was a great resource to the current board. She and her husband volunteered as board members during their membership. (Greta was also the neighbor who told me, "You have to contact Saasto" for more Finnish history.)

3) Who are the Board members involved in this project other than yourself?

Cecilia Feilla and John Amman are fellow board

## Finland ranked second on Press Freedom Index

After several years of lower ratings, Finland is again ranked near the top of the World Press Freedom Index. Finland is now in second place behind neighbouring Norway, with another neighbour, Sweden, in third. The Netherlands, which was second last year, now slides to fourth. The annual list, issued by the NGO Reporters Without Borders (RSF), evaluates the state of journalism in 180 countries and territories.

The head of RSF's Finnish branch of the organisation, former Yle reporter Jarmo Mäkelä, says there are several reasons for Finland's return to the top echelon of the list. Besides good fundamental structures and a scandal-free year, he cites a positive court ruling and a clever messaging campaign during last year's US-Russian summit in Helsinki. Finland was ranked first in press freedom from 2010 to 2017, when it dropped to third, falling to fourth the following year.

The first drop was linked to pressure from Prime Minister Juha Sipilä regarding Yle reporting, while last year's decline followed police confiscation of a Helsingin Sanomat reporter's material related to her reporting on a secret military installation.

## Sitra: Economic growth by cutting emissions

A report issued by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, a research organisation that also functions as a quasi-of-

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grants were out- s- interesting and d to Finnish Ame- Ossi Rahkonen. in San Diego, the totaling \$43,000, ents, and three law dfors Legal Fund. ttee's recommen- ject. ancing some news : initiative, as well ). The FFN Spring nation about these enefit to members ial members. For undation, see the m. We appreciate nd in San Diego; ogram we enjoyed ir board meeting,

Historic Places. Both Alku 1 and Alku 2, 816 and 826 43rd Street, Brooklyn, New York, will be formally listed on the State Register. The application has been mailed to the National Park Service.

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Robert Alan Saasto, Esq., born in Finntown in the Sunset Park section of Brooklyn, NY, was very active in the process of securing the historical documentation for the Board of Alku 1 and 2 to submit in the request for historical designation.

In addition to furnishing extensive historical references himself, he was able to direct the Board to other sources in the USA and Finland to secure additional historical proof to establish that in fact, (1) Alku 1 and Alku 2 were the first Finnish coop buildings in Brooklyn NY and in the USA; and (2) that the Finnish immigrants brought the concept of cooperative ownership to the United States.

"The Finns should be recognized not just for saunas, but also for bringing to the USA the concept of cooperative ownership, whether it be buildings, food markets, banks, credit unions, etc. This is a first step towards that recognition!"

Letters of support from the Finnish American com-

Alaskan Lodge of Robert Alan Saasto, Trustee.

The Board of Alku 1 and Alku 2 worked very hard to get the historical designation. Valerie Landriscina, a licensed architect, was very active in securing the hard data necessary for the application for historical designation. Robert Alan Saasto proposed to her the following questions via e-mail and received the following answers:

*1) What inspired you to take on this great project? Was it to preserve the architectural status or to memorialize the Finnish connection or both or some other reason?*

For me, I was inspired by architecture. When I moved into the building, I was told that it was the first Finnish co-op but didn't fully understand what that meant. At the time, I appreciated the spatial layout of the apartment which we later learned was heavily influenced by Finnish design.

It was during my involvement in an exterior facade restoration project in 2013 and 2014 that I came to further appreciate the art that Eric O. Holmgren, Alku Toinen's architect, designed into the apartment building.

This is an art that is lost today -- that even working class people deserve beautiful homes. We replaced Alku Toinen's decorative parapet wall and I was tasked with not only making sure waterproofing was done correctly, but that the contractor salvaged and reinstalled decorative li-

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*3) Who are the Board members involved in this project other than yourself?*

Cecilia Feilla and John Amman are fellow board members. John is our board president. The three of us were the most heavily involved in the research project.

*4) Are you planning some event perhaps in the courtyard to celebrate this? Maybe have local press? maybe even the Consul General of Finland to NY?*

I think this is a great idea but we will need to speak as a board first.

The Board is also considering putting a plaque in the wall to recognize the historical designation. You can be sure that Robert Saasto will encourage them to recognize the Finnish immigrants who made it all happen.

There is presently a fence around the tree outside the building which spells out Alku 1 in the gridwork.

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Sitra: Economic growth by cutting emissions

A report issued by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, a research organisation that also functions as a quasi-official think tank, proposes three types of tax reform the next government could launch with the twin aims of cutting emissions and creating jobs.

A Sitra panel argues that Finland could simultaneously stimulate economic growth, boost employment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions that drive climate change.

This could all be achieved by 2030 through a comprehensive tax overhaul, the report claims. Sitra is an independent body that is directly supervised by the Finnish Parliament, which established it in 1967.

"We need to cut emissions in a hurry. Taxation is an effective way to guide us toward that," says panel chair Saara Tamminen, an international economics expert at the VATT Institute for Economic Research. Sweeping tax reform could bring about annual emissions reductions of some four million tons, or about 10 percent, by 2030.

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## Sri Lankan terrori-iskuissa kuoli lähes 300 ihmistä



*Sri Lankan terrori-iskut kohdistuivat mm. kirkkoihin, ja hotelleihin. Maan muslimiväestö säästyi terrorilta tyystin.*

kolme poliisia kuoli, kun he olivat tekemässä kotietsintää terroristien epäiltyyn piilopaikkaan Colombon esikaupungissa ja asukkaat laukaisivat räjähteet välttääkseen pidätyksen. Iskuista kuusi ensimmäistä oli itsemurhapommituksia. – Emme usko, että näitä iskuja toteutti tämän maan sisälle rajoittuva ryhmä, hallituksen tiedottaja Rajitha Senaratne sanoi. Sri Lankan presi-

dentti Maithripala Sirisena aikoo pyytää ulkomailta apua sen selvittämiseen, onko iskuilla kansainvälisiä yhteyksiä. Hän julisti kansallisen hätätilan heti iskujen tapahduttua. Sen turvin poliisi ja armeija voivat tehdä piudätksiä ja kuulusteluja. Toistaiseksi terroriteon tutkinta on toistaiseksi johtanut seitsemän epäillyn pidättämiseen.

Sri Lankan hallituksen nimeämä ryhmä lienee

sama, josta tiedusteluviranomaisten kerrottiin antaneen varoituksen useita päiviä ennen iskuja. Uutistoimisto AFP:n näkemän tiedusteluraportin mukaan Thowheeth Jama'ath -ryhmä oli suunnitellut itsemurhaishakuja tunnettuja kirkkoja ja Intian Colombon-edustustoa vastaan. Järjestö itse tuomitsi iskun sunnuntaina aamulla tehdyssä Facebook-päivityksessään.

Uhrien joukossa oli muun muassa neljä amerikkalaista sekä kolme Tanskan rikkaimman miehen kolme lasta. Mediatietojen mukaan Anders Holch Povlsen oli Shangri-La-hotellissa Colombossa vaimonsa ja neljän lapsensa kanssa, kun hotelliin iskettiin. Perheen edustaja on vahvistanut medialle, että lapsista kolme sai surmansa. Suomalaisia ei tiettävästi loukkaantunut terrori-iskussa.

## Vladimir Putin ja Kim Jong-un tapaavat Venäjällä

Venäjän presidentti Vladimir Putin ja Pohjois-Korean johtaja Kim Jong-un tapaavat torstaina Vladivostokissa Venäjän kaukoidässä, kertoo Kremlin edustaja Juri Ušakov. Miesten tapaamisesta on kerrottu jo aikaisemmin,



*Kim Jong-Un ja Vladimir Putin selvittävät maiden välistä kauppaa.*

mutta tapaamisaika ja -paikka vahvistettiin vasta tällä viikolla. Kremlin mukaan tapaamisessa keskustellaan muassa Pohjois-Korean ydinohjelmaa koskevasta. Putin ja Kim puhuvat myös maiden välisestä kaupasta, joka on kutistunut Pohjois-Korean varauksien takia.

Ušakovin mukaan Venäjä pitää tärkeänä, että Pohjois-Korea ja Yhdysvallat pyrkivät säilyttämään lähtösuhteensa.

## Jäämistöasioita ei hoideta enää Suomen edustustoisissa

Toukokuun alusta lukien Suomen ulkomailta teettävät edustustot eivät enää hoida jäämistöasioita. Virkatiedustustot ja osoitetiedusteluja hoidetaan vain erityistapauksissa. Lisäksi muutos mahdollistaa ulkopuolisten palvelujen käyttämisen notaaripalveluissa. Laki konsulilain muuttamisesta vahvistettiin tasavallan presidentin esittelystä 8. helmikuuta 2019. Laki tulee voimaan toukokuuta 2019. Lainmuutoksen tavoitteena on vähentää konsulipalveluihin liittyvää hallinnollisen työn määrää.

Edustustot hoitavat toukokuun alusta lukien osittain virkatodistuksia koskevia tiedusteluja ainoastaan sisäministeriön toimesta. Sellainen on esimerkiksi tilanne, jossa maan viranomaiset ei anna tietoa muille diplomaattisille edustajille. Ulkoministeriö ja edustustot neuvovat jatkossakin asiakkaita yleisen neuvonpöytäkirjan mukaisesti näissä asioissa ja välillä paikallisten toimivaltuutettujen viranomaisten ja asianajajien yhteistyötä. Edustustojen verkkosivuilta löytyy

## ta rajut toimenpiteet turvahuollon korjaamiseksi