

December 2023

Dear Soroptimist Friends in Växjö, Lister, Herning, Dresden and Luzern!

This year it has been good to get back to normal routines and festivities after the pandemic years, even though the wars, nature catastrophes, Finland joining NATO etc. has set a strong mark for this year. Despite all crisis taking place in the world, we have managed to make our club's 51<sup>st</sup> year a year of interesting topics and warm events.

The number of sisters in our club has remained the same, few have left but we have also got new members joining our club this year. That is a positive sign, since in general interest towards different free time societies and associations, and number of members in them, is decreasing in Finland.

During this year we have arranged quite an impressive set of events around today's important topics:

- [Paula Risikko](#), MP and chairperson of [Women's National Emergency Preparedness Association - Naisten Valmiusliitto ry](#) introduced and discussed with us about national overall security and its strengthening.
- Visit to [EMMA museum](#) to see the [art collection of Kyösti Kakkonen](#).
- In the annual meeting of capital area SI clubs, we had [Helena Ranta](#) giving us impressive presentation about war crime investigations. To have not only heavy topics on the agenda we also had a concert by two violinists Tarja and Jari Koskinen.
- In August we had an outdoor meeting, light exercise to warm us up and then a walking tour in [Kasavuori nature trail](#) in Kauniainen.
- Our new members made their presentations, meaning we have had the pleasure to get to know more about their work, life, and interests.
- [Liisa Rohweder](#), the general secretary of WWF Finland, introduced us to current state of nature and WWF operations.
- [Lea Pulkkinen](#), psychologist and professor emerita, gave a presentation with title "Tutkijan omakuva" (self-portrait of a scientist), which is also the title of her book published in 2022.

In addition to educating ourselves, we have made fund raising and given donations to our long-time contact organizations – [Granin Lähiapu](#) here in Kauniainen and [Zimbabwe's Children](#).

Soroptimist clubs of Finnish capital region organized for a Girls Day event in science center Heureka. Third time already – previous similar events were in 2019 and 2021. This year there was again close to 800 upper grade students with their teachers getting introduced to different STEM (science, technics, engineering, mathematics) topics by various organizations and companies. Let's hope we see more women working on these areas in the future!

Worth mentioning is also SI Finland's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in October in Tampere. There was a full day seminar and gala program with app. 200 participants. Our club was presented in the event by Christel and Katariina.

Now December has started and Christmas coming. Our club tradition has come to meet before Christmas in the church of Kauniainen, enjoying Christmas service, music, and some Christmas treats. A perfect way to start settling towards Christmas holiday with families and friends.

Our club wishes you and your club sisters a Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

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