



# Uutiset

## NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

January/Tammikuu 2014

### Cokato and the Finnish Immigrants Who Settled There Presented by Harvey Barberg

In 1865, four Finnish men walked from Minneapolis through the “big woods” to the shore of Cokato Lake. They had come from northern Finland to find farm land. In Cokato Township, they each staked out their own section of land. In 1866, other families arrived, including the Barba (Barberg) family, and the township grew.

Harvey Barberg will talk about the 150 years of Cokato history since the first settlers came, beginning the modern Finnish migration to North America. He’ll also tell us about the May 24th Finnfest kick-off events in Cokato in recognition of the first people in the modern Finnish immigration to North America.

Harvey and his wife Heidi live on the Barberg ancestral farm in Cokato. It is the oldest dwelling built by Finnish pioneers still in use in the community. Part of the house was built by Harvey’s great-grandfather, and Harvey represents the fourth generation of Barbergs living in the house.



#### Program In Brief

#### ***Cokato and the Finnish Immigrants Harvey Barberg***

**January 17, 7:30 p.m.  
International Institute  
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*If you need transportation, call*

*Marianne Wargelin  
(612) 374-2718*

Harvey was born in Minneapolis to Finnish-American parents and grew up in “Finn Town Minneapolis.” His parents owned a cabin north of Cokato where he spent summers and weekends visiting aunts and uncles, checking out the farmers market, and of course, taking saunas! He graduated from the University of Minnesota and for 40 years worked in quality control at major manufacturing firms in Minnesota. He is now semi-retired, doing home inspections for realty companies. Harvey is an active member and current president of the Cokato Finnish American Historical Society.

## FACA 2012-2013 Board of Directors

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(651) 777-6704  
bud987@hotmail.com

Vice President/Program Chair:  
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(651) 455-6152  
janieahola@msn.com

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(651) 454-5441  
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eb.boos@usiwireless.com

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(763) 784-9522  
richardharju@gmail.com

Membership:  
**John Rova**  
(612) 729-1585  
jrova@millerhanson.com

## FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:  
**Jeanne Swope**  
(612) 827-6773  
facaeditor@gmail.com

Graphic Design:  
**Beth Jarvis**  
(763) 536-9561  
bethjarvi@gmail.com

Contributing Writers: **Janie Ahola, Betsey Norgard, Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen, Urho Rahkola, Bud Berry**

Membership/Mailing:  
**Urho and Pam Rahkola**  
rahkola.urho@comcast.net  
(651) 429-3319

## President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

We enjoyed the November program with Tiina and Ed Watts, presenting a sample day in Salolampi Language Village Adult Week. At our January 2014 program we will hear from Harvey Barberg about 150 years of Finnish American history in Cokato.

### The Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations

The big news for this Uutiset is that we have managers for the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. Kathryn, Bert and Renee Hill, who you may know from their store, Irene's Favorite Things, in Park Rapids, and their booth at the Festival of Nations Bazaar and other events, will organize and supervise the Café. Kathryn will serve as the lead manager. The Hills, who are long-distance FACA members, have met with Pam and Urho Rahkola and received the reports that Pam, Urho, and Junelle and Stuart Bernard have put together for new Café managers. We have agreed on a business arrangement with the Hills and are looking forward to this joint venture.

Your volunteer help will still be needed. Fortunately, working at Baking Day and in the Café are enjoyable and productive endeavors! There will be friendship and fun, and Finland will continue to be a full participant among the 35 nations providing cafés at the Festival of Nations. Kathryn tells me that the menu will probably be very similar to last year.

The Hills are already engaged in the administrative tasks of the Café, completing the paperwork required by the Festival. You will hear more from them and get to know them better in the coming months. This is a highly visible activity for FACA, and thanks to the Hills, we can continue our participation. You will meet the Hills in the February issue of the *Uutiset*.

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### Tell Us about a Special Place in Finland



Have you traveled in Finland? Want to travel in Finland? Share your advice or dream! For a story in Uutiset later in the spring, please write a paragraph about what you particularly remember or what you want to see or experience. Don't work too hard or think too long on this—the first thing that pops in your mind is exactly what we want. Send to [faceditor@gmail.com](mailto:faceditor@gmail.com).



## Board Notes

By Ruth Erkkila



L-R: Bud Berry, Edith Boos, Ruth Erkkila, Janie Ahola, Richard Harju, John Rova.

The FACA Board Meeting was called to order by President Bud Berry at 6:35 p.m., November 12, 2013, at Perkins Restaurant in Roseville. Although we liked the meeting space at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville where we met last time, no rooms were available for this meeting. Present at the meeting, besides Bud, were Vice President Janie Ahola, Treasurer Edith Boos, Secretary Ruth Erkkila, Hospitality Chair Richard Harju, Membership Chair John Rova, Urho Rahkola, Pam Rahkola and Bob Boos.

The proposed agenda, the Secretary's minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were presented and accepted.

**Finnish Cafe at the Festival of Nations.** Kathryn Hill of Park Rapids is interested in managing the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations in addition to her "Irene's Favorite Things" Finnish booth in the bazaar. She has talked to Bud, and she and other family members will meet with Urho and Pam Rahkola, former managers, and Ruth Erkkila and Bud next week.

The Festival of Nations held a meeting on November 3. Bud Berry and Janie Ahola attended. When the meeting broke into smaller groups, Bud went to the cafe discussion and Janie went to the exhibit discussion. Janie will manage the cultural exhibit but requests help. The theme is "Peace among the People," and the Festival requests there be no references to war and nothing offensive to another country be mentioned. Sauna Bucket nominations are open until December 31. Some nominations have been received.

Vice President Janie Ahola discussed future FACA programs. In January Harvey Barberg will talk about the Finnish settlement in Cokato. Once again Janie sent in an announcement of the November meeting to the *Pioneer Press*. We don't

know if October's announcement was published. These notices are published if space is available.

**New Business.** We should think about a budget for next year. We do not have one for this year. Sales of donated items at the last meeting brought in \$147.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for the Ramsey County Library in Roseville. Bud will notify us of the date and place. The time will be 6:30. If you are not a Board member and wish to attend, call Bud Berry or another board member to check on the date and place; you are welcome! The meeting adjourned at about 8:15.

## In Memoriam

Doris Jane Harju of Mounds View died Nov. 18, 2013 after an eight-year battle with multiple system atrophy. Doris was a long-time FACA member with her husband Richard.

Doris was born in Minneapolis to Sverre and Mary (Sushoreba) Kvaale. She graduated from Washburn High School in 1954. She worked as secretary at IDS before she married and later at Control Data and Medtronic.

Doris married Richard Harju in 1958. Throughout their 55-year marriage, Doris and Richard enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends. Doris' passions were cooking, crocheting, and shopping. She leaves a collection of hundreds of cookbooks and several afghans which will serve as treasured memories.

Doris is preceded in death by son Allen and brother John. Survived by loving husband, Richard; son, Rob of Golden Valley; daughter, Judy (Rick) Galliher of Reston, VA; daughter-in-law, Mary Harju of St. Charles, IL; grandchildren, Russell (Lindsey) Harju of Omaha, Kelley (Tyler) Bryan of Houston, Alanna Harju of Denver, Tyler and Rachel Harju of St. Charles and Ryan and Jess Galliher of Reston; brother Tom (Mary Lee Pratt) Kvaale. Services were held on Friday, Nov. 22. Memorials to Presbyterian Homes Foundation, 2845 Hamline Ave N, Roseville, MN 55113, Alzheimer's Foundation, 322 Eight Ave, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10001 or donor's choice.

## **Paljon Kiitoksia to FACA!**

*By Linda Warpula Davis and Ruthann Rintala Swanson, co-chairs of Salolampi Foundation's Scholarship Phonathon*

The Phonathon Committee wishes to extend *paljon kiitoksia* to the many FACA members who helped this year's fund raising be a success.

Volunteer callers used the phones at Lutheran Community Foundation, reaching out to over 700 households across the nation. Twenty devoted Salolampi supporters called from their homes – from New York to Arizona, Maryland to Texas, Minnesota to Florida, contacting another 1100 homes. These personal contacts have resulted in donations coming steadily into our mail box. We are grateful to these volunteers who took time out of their busy lives to help the Salolampi Foundation continue to help youth afford to attend Salolampi. It is their efforts that have resulted in donors' generosity. All donors are greatly appreciated, and we humbly thank each and every one. The Phonathon could not have been carried out, let alone have been successful, without the help of the following:

Lutheran Community Foundation! This wonderful organization again generously allowed us to use their phones for three evenings of calling free of charge. This enabled 22 volunteers to call across the United States and Canada.

On-site callers: Marlene Banttari, Junelle Bernard, Sara Ahlgren Bogie, Edith Boos, Ken Daniels, Linda Warpula Davis, John Hanson, Richard Harju, Robert Katvala, Gil Kinnunen, Lila Koivisto, Theresa Lund, Kara Middleton, Carol Pesola, Pam Rahkola, Seija Rahkola, Urho Rahkola, Ruthann Rintala Swanson, Bette Ruskanen, Becky Vogsland, Ed Watts and Tiina Watts.

Off-site FACA callers: Michael Anuta, White Bear Lake; Stella Arola, Crystal; Elsie Barnaby, Burnsville; Marcia Chess, Pine City; Robert Pemberton, Eden Prairie; Dan Salin, New Hope; Delores Salin, New Hope; Paavo Taipale, St. Paul; and Ed Watts, Coon Rapids.

Administrative aides: Sara Ahlgren Bogie, Kathy Chambless, Phyllis Kiihn, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope, Adrian Swanson, Ruthann Rintala Swanson and Luella Zibell.

We would like to take this opportunity to remember two of our past callers who died this past year: Marlyn Ervasti of Rogers and Beatrice Meyers of

Holiday, FL. Their friendly calls from Minnesota and Florida helped many children's tuition expenses be reduced. Our sympathy to both of their families.

So plan ahead! This year, the Phonathon was held earlier and it seems to have worked out well. We were still in Day Light Savings Time so it was still light in the early evening for driving downtown to the Thrivent Building. The weather was a bit more predictable and less hazardous. The "holiday rush" hadn't yet begun.

So plan ahead! In 2014, the Phonathon will be at the end of September.

Consider experiencing Salolampi yourself this coming year. There is a Family Fun Weekend in February for adults and children; an Adult Week in May and September; a Family Week in June. Check out the scholarship opportunities on the web site, [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org). The annual Salolampi Foundation Phonathon is for the sole purpose of raising scholarship funds for children to attend Salolampi Language Village. If you would like to contribute, you can send gifts to: Salolampi Foundation, P.O. Box 14480, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0480, or on the secure website, [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org)

## **Finnish Christmas Room at the American Swedish Institute**



Leena Kurki (Finland) and Carole Tormala di Girolamo (Minnesota) designed the 2013 Finnish Christmas Room at ASI. Go to our website [finnfaca.org](http://finnfaca.org) for pictures and description of the room, which featured the modern design for which Finland is justly famous."

### **Conversational Finnish Class**

**Tuesdays, 4:00-5:25 p.m.**

**St. Anthony Library**

**Corner of Como and Carter Ave.**

**St. Paul**

**Everyone is welcome.**

**For more information, please call**

**Urho Rahkola at ( 651) 429-3319**

## ***Joulu—A Magical Finnish Christmas***

By *Betsy Norgard*

Once again, *Joulu* came to Christ Church Lutheran.

For the second year, Finnish Christmas traditions came alive on December 14 at *Joulu—Magical Finnish Christmas* at Christ Church Lutheran. This event was created by the 'Twin Cities' Finnish community to bring together several long-standing Finnish Christmas traditions, which could be celebrated and shared with the wider community.

Nearly 200 people enjoyed the Christmas buffet, a sumptuous table of many traditional Finnish Christmas foods, prepared by chef Soile Anderson, of Deco Catering, as she has done for many years. Many families have attended this together over the years and enjoyed the traditional Christmas foods they know—salmon and Christmas ham; breads; beet and herring salads; carrot, rutabaga, and liver casseroles; etc.

*Tiernapojat* (Starboys) was performed, once again directed by Wendy Knox of the Frank Theater. This is a musical play about the three Magi, often performed in Finland at Christmas time; it dates back to medieval times.

*Kauneimmat Joululaulut*, or the Most Beautiful Christmas Songs, has been presented in the Twin Cities for a number of years, inviting the community to sing along to the old familiar and new Christmas songs of Finland. Even without English translations in the books, visitors could enjoy the music of the Finnish carols, not as bright and cheery as American carols. The *Suomi-koulu* (Finnish Language School of Minnesota) children sang, and the *Ameriikan Poijat* brass septet filled the sanctuary with their bright sound. A welcome guest musician was Maestro Osmo Vänskä, who certainly brought melancholy memories to some listeners as he played *Sylvian joululaulu*, or *Sylvia's Christmas Song* on clarinet. The words to this beautiful yet mournful song were created by Zacharias Topelius, as he spent Christmas in Italy one year, longing to be back home in Finland. Violinist Sara Pajunen joined on several pieces, and Harvey Gustafson served as organist. Elina Koivusaari led the program, and Christ Church Lutheran Pastor Kristine Carlson offered a closing prayer.

The wreath contest attracted a number of creative designs to hang in the glass windows. First, second, and third prizes this year went to Anita Jain, Johanna Lorbach, and Delores Salin, with two wreaths of flowers and a Christmas elf.

All during the day, visitors enjoyed shopping in the Christmas Marketplace, watching Finnish Christmas films, enjoying some light food and treats in the Finnish Café, watching the children having fun in activities, and just meeting friends with lots of visiting and talking.



Delores Salin and her wreath



Linda Davis and Mauno Silpala enjoy *kabvia*.



The lavish Christmas cake

## November Program Recap

By Janie Abola

For our November program, Tiina and Ed Watts took the “villagers” (audience) through an exciting “day” at Salolampi Finnish Language Village Adult Week.

Our “day” began when Tiina asked, “How do we start our morning at Salolampi Adult Week?” The response was: “We sing.” Tiina said that one of the best ways to learn Finnish is to sing in Finnish—and so we did! For our first song, Tiina and a few other Salolampi villagers and staff sang *Aamulla herätys* (waking up in the morning). All villagers joined in for a repeat of the song.

After we warmed up our voices with the first song, and tongues for those who are not so good at Finnish, we sang *Löyhyä lissää* (throwing water on the stones to make more steam for the sauna). Our third song was a melancholy folk song called *Taivas on sininen* (I do not tell my Finnish sorrows to anyone except to the bright sky and the deep forest).

We concluded our Finnish singing lessons with a Christmas song called *Aidin Porsaat* (Mom’s pigs).

We then moved on to an enjoyable Finnish language class. Tiina asked the villagers to remove a small card, each containing a Finnish verb, adhered under the seat of each chair. Using this verb and a chart at the front of the room, our assignment was to change the verb form by adding the appropriate verb ending. During class, we learned about the six major groups of Finnish verbs, verb exceptions, and personal pronouns.

Ed then gave an interesting cultural presentation, similar to the afternoon presentations in Adult Week, on the relationships between languages. We learned that words originating from one language are often borrowed from another language. For example, when two groups of people meet and interact, they often borrow words that eventually become part of their language. Early in its evolution, our Finnish words were borrowed from Indo-European languages. Religion also affected the development of the Finnish language. We also learned about language families in terms of numbers (percentage) of native speakers as a proportion of the world population.

Lastly, the villagers were given a choice of making a creative greeting card or playing an energetic

Finnish game called *mölkey*.

To make the greeting cards, villagers used different sized sheets of paper in a variety of colors and a little glue to construct a prune tart (*joulutorttu*), a star-shaped cookie. The card artists could write a special greeting or add embellishments to the art on the card, then glue a recipe, poem, or words from a Christmas song inside.

*Mölkey* is a Finnish throwing game which originated in the *Paijanne Tavastia* region in Southern Finland (this area includes the city of Lahti). *Mölkey* could also be called Yard Bowling, as it has been described as a cross between bowling and bocce. To play the game, the players use a wooden throwing pin (also called *mölkey*) to try and knock over other wooden pins of almost the same size.

At the conclusion of our exciting “day,” our mini-Salolampi experience had everyone asking for more!

Tiina teaches Finnish at Salolampi Adult programs and at *Suomi-koulu* (a Saturday Finnish school) in Minneapolis. Tiina has also performed with various Finnish musical groups and with her family at FACA programs, Salolampi and at four Finnfests. Currently, Tiina is President of the Salolampi Foundation.

Ed has attended many Salolampi Family Weekends and three Adult Weeks, where he has given cultural presentations on Finnish linguistics. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Salolampi Foundation. Ed was in Argentina for 22 months as a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He studied French, and both Tiina and Ed studied Russian at Brigham Young University. Tiina and Ed’s passion for learning and teaching language was clearly evident during our Salolampi experience.

Salolampi Finnish Language Village is located on the beautiful shore of Turtle River Lake in Bemidji, Minnesota. Throughout the year, programs are offered at the village where young and old learn about Finland, the Finnish language and culture. For more information on Salolampi, visit <http://www.salolampi.org/>

**Welcome New Member!**

**Kathleen Ristinen. Athens, Ohio**

**Tervetuloa!**

## Pieniä Paloja

- Thank your November coffee servers! Richard Harju, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope.
- Weather prophet Eero Isokääntä doesn't remember anything in his lifetime like the three fierce storms that have hit Finland in close succession this fall. "There's an old saying that the third storm calms things and ushers in the real winter. There's a lot of truth in those old sayings," says Isokääntä, who has since 1967 specialised in predicting the weather from signs he sees in the sky, nature and the northern lights. Together with his son, he has examined the ciphers of the galaxy and come up with forecasts for the coming winter months. January will be spotty, with periods of snow and thawing temperatures interchanged. He claims that the moon's points aren't standing, so there won't be many freezing temperatures all winter. *YLE*
- Finland has turned down the attempts of TeliaSonera International Carrier to convince it to embark on a major fibre-optic cable project. According to information obtained by *Helsingin Sanomat*, the Swedish provider of fibre-based communications services has laid out a plan to roll out a massive fibre-optic cable from St. Petersburg and possibly also from Finland via the Baltic countries and Poland to Germany. However, Pekka Haavisto (Greens), the minister responsible for ownership steering, revealed last week that Finland intends to build its own undersea fibre-optic cable to Germany. With an estimated cost of 100 million euros, the national project is roughly ten times smaller than the one planned by TeliaSonera. *Helsinki Times*
- Minister of the Interior Päivi Räsänen (Christian Democrats) insists that the claims that Finland is contemplating establishing a civilian foreign intelligence service with the authority to deploy agents abroad are exaggerated. "There are no plans to establish a Finnish CIA," Räsänen stressed, insisting that Finland has no need for espionage activities abroad. "The Ministry of the Interior's task force is contemplating whether the Security Intelligence Service should be organised under the Police Administration as it is today or, for example, directly under the Ministry of the Interior. But there are no plans to develop Supo into a foreign intelligence organisation," underlined Räsänen. *Helsinki Times*

## Additional Calendar Items from page 8

com, www.finnhall.com, www.kramarczuk.com

**Feb. 21** February FACA program.

**May 24** Opening ceremony for FinnFest 2014, in Cokato, where the first modern Finnish immigrants settled 150 years ago. (FinnFest will occur in several locations and at several times in 2014.)

**August 8–10** FinnFest 2014 Twin Cities

## FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with nine issues of this newsletter, plus other benefits, for \$25. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check mailing label for membership expiration date.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FACA needs your ideas and your helping hand. If you can help with any of the committees or events, please return this form. Thanks!

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program     | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Library             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Laskiainen</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pikkujoulu</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property    | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone   |

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Email \_\_\_\_\_

Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708 or bring to the next program.



**Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.**

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

**FACA**

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

Information: (612) 374-2718, [www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

**Thursdays** Kisarit-Finnish-American Folk dancers meet every Thursday at the International Institute on Como Ave. across from the state fairgrounds. 7:00 p.m. New members welcome. For more information: Dan (763) 544-1441.

**Fridays** Finlanders at the U of M conversation hour, Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave SE, Minneapolis (very near Folwell Hall), 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. The University begins its next semester in January, and the conversation hour may be different than the time above. For more information: [karvo001@umn.edu](mailto:karvo001@umn.edu)

**Jan. 10** Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's. 6:30 p.m. 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018). Join the party at Kramarczuku's; Finn Hall's "Northeast home". Bring the children, this is a friendly place. Great food, dance space. Free. For more information: Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com), [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com), [www.kramarczuk.com](http://www.kramarczuk.com)

**Jan. 17** FACA program, 7:30 p.m.

**Jan. 18** Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. Times: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 p.m. First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights. You are cordially invited to this event! Tickets are adult \$18.00, 50 cents for each year of age up through age 10. For tickets, call Cheryl at (651) 633-0679. For more directions, see [www.facch.org](http://www.facch.org)

[www.facch.org](http://www.facch.org)

**Jan. 19** Finnish Culture through Movies group. *Täällä Pohjantäiden alla. Under the North Star.* [www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhgydXhqKKM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhgydXhqKKM) 6:00 p.m., Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page: [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org) (select "The Finnish Language School of Minnesota," then "Age Groups," then "Finnish Culture through Movies") or call (651) 428-3155.

**Jan. 24** Deadline for submitting articles for the February *Utiset*. Send your items to [facaeeditor@gmail.com](mailto:facaeeditor@gmail.com)

**Jan. 25** Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Pam Erickson: presentation on the Cloquet/Moose Lake Fire of 1918. Meetings will be held at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. For driving directions or for changes in meeting times and/or places, see the FGG web pages: [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org) (select "Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota," then "Meeting Information")

**Feb. 7** Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's. 6:30 p.m. 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018). For more information: Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com)

*Calendar-continued on page 7*