



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

January/Tammikuu 2018

THE ADVENTURES OF THE TRAVELING SAUNA with Risto Sivula and Jouko Sipilä

For our first program of the New Year 2018, we welcome Risto Sivula and Jouko Sipilä, who will present highlights of their year-long adventure with Finland's Centennial mascot in the USA, Sisu The Traveling Sauna! They will share memories from Sisu's mission to explore what no sauna has explored before—the vast expanses of Finn Country from coast to coast and through the Midwest.

They will tell us about the people and places that made the journey special, as they experienced Finnish culture, Finnish achievements and the best of the best in innovation cross-country in the USA.



In mid-January 2017 Sisu was launched from the FinnLeo factory in Cokato, Minn. Sisu was celebrated with an inauguration in Minneapolis on January 14, as a proud part of the kick-off of the Finland 100 event year in the United States. Finnish Ambassador Kirsti Kauppi lit Sisu's first fire. Minnesota was a natural starting point of Sisu's tour since the state has the biggest percentage of people with Finnish ancestry in the country. The finale of the tour was at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, DC on Finnish Independence day, December 6. Sisu covered 20,000 miles!

Risto and Jouko, the men behind the sauna project, are two Finns living in Minnesota who are passionate about promoting Finland and everything Finnish in the United States. Their company, Ice Cold

Marketing, was in charge of all sauna logistics, such as designing the sauna, creating the route and coordinating the sauna stops with local Finnish and Finnish-American organizations.

See photos and read the blog at <http://www.travelingsauna.com/> Bring a friend—all are welcome. The program will be followed by coffee and conversation.

Program in Brief

The Adventures of Sisu, the Traveling Sauna

**Presenters: Risto Sivula
and Jouko Sipilä**

**Friday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m.
International Institute
of Minnesota**

1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
(across from the Fairgrounds).

FACA Event Cancellation Policy

If St. Paul public schools are canceled due to bad weather, then a FACA event scheduled for that day will also be canceled. FACA members may contact any board member if they have a question.

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President's Message

By Kaarina Kotkavuori

Welcome to the New Year. I hope you enjoyed the holiday season.

I had a joyous time throughout December. On the third, I joined six other FACA members at the *Pikkujoulu* celebration of Finland 100 in Duluth. We traveled north to enjoy a lovely lunch and an interesting program that included a 40-minute video of Finland and Finnish Americans. On the sixth of December, 43 FACA members joined 300 other guests to enjoy the Gala celebration at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The music, presentations, food and decorations made for a delightfully memorable event. The people who planned the event created a spectacular evening.

We already have some interesting programs planned for this new year. For our January program, I am looking forward to listening to Risto Sivula and Jouko Sipilä share their stories of the year on the road with Sisu, the Traveling Sauna. What adventures they surely had.

Our February program will be our annual *Laskiainen* celebration. The evening will include an excellent program and a wonderful potluck dinner. The board will be providing a variety of pea soups.

Another event this year will be our participation in the Festival of Nations. The theme is an interesting one. I am the chairperson of the exhibit booth. If you would like to be on the committee that plans the exhibit, please let me know. Many hands and ideas will make for a well-planned and informative exhibit booth. Also, please reserve some time on the first weekend of May to come volunteer your time at the Festival.

I have enjoyed seeing so many people at our recent programs. Please ask your friends to come and join us at our January program.

Hyvää Uutta Vuotta! Kaarina



Sisu, the Traveling Sauna, at Niagara River and Peace Bridge, Buffalo, NY

Highlights from Finland 100 Celebrations

By Betsey Norgard

Minneapolis, Dec. 6—Approximately 350 people enjoyed an evening of music, mingling, and elegant *hors d'oeuvres* and desserts. Eric Peltoniemi; Silver Ainomäe and his Cellissimo quartet; Kari Sundström with Adi Yeshaya, Nathan Norman, and Mark Weisberg; and the Finland 100 Chorus provided the music; and DJ Ale Peltoniemi played music from 100 years in Finland for dancing.

Sisu the Traveling Sauna celebrated the centennial at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C. One of the D.C. Finns reported, “The funnest part [of the Embassy celebration] was having a sauna in the Traveling Sauna. The *löyly* was great and looking out the window at rush-hour traffic on Massachusetts Avenue with the vice president’s residence in the background was crazy.” Sisu logged 22,000 miles through 35 states, and hosted 1,400 people who enjoyed the heat and steam.

In Finland—Across the country on Dec. 6, thousands of young people commemorated war heroes with processions, including in Kuopio (Minneapolis’ sister city), where the Finnish Defense Forces’ parade took place. The President’s Reception hosted 1,900 guests. 100,000 people viewed the spectacular blue-and-white fireworks in Helsinki. Seven million birthday messages were sent to Finnish mobile phones. For more celebrations and great photos, see suomifinland100.fi

In Los Angeles, the Finnish Consulate General had to be evacuated, with all celebrations canceled. Here is what was posted on the Consulate General’s Facebook page on Dec. 7: “Short update on the Finnish Residence situation due to the Skirball fire situation: There was a mandatory evacuation at 0545 hours Wednesday morning. Everything was ready for the Independence Day celebrations that were about to start a few hours later. The flames could already be seen from the house, and we were given a few minutes to pack the essentials before leaving. The firestorm approached the house from three directions, and was at the closest only a hundred yards away. Miraculously the house and the tent were not affected, even though there were fires all over.” All food that had been prepared was given to the firefighters and volunteers battling the blazes.

Please consider a membership to Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities

Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities (FFTC) is eager to build on the energy, enthusiasm and increased visibility of Finland that has occurred during the Finland 100 year. There are many opportunities that with some creativity, imagination, and innovation can connect with people, places and organizations in Finland—e-book clubs, opportunities for study and visits to Finland, learning about best practices in Finnish communities and government, film culture, etc.

FFTC is part of the nationwide network of 56 organizations of Finns and Finnish Americans, of young and old people, of organizations and clubs around the country. Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) is the largest private source of support to Finnish and Finnish American culture in the US and works closely with Suomi Seura (Finland Society) in Finland, as well as with the Finnish Embassy and cultural organizations in Finland. FFN sponsors a summer music camp for middle and high-school ages with students and instructors from both the US and Finland; the camp is held in Finland every third year. FFN also works closely with Salolampi, providing scholarships and travel grants.

What is your interest? What would you like to learn about or stay connected with in Finland? How can FFTC create the communication tools and social media that would capture your interest? PLEASE let us know what you’re thinking so we can plan programs together. Email finlandiafoundationTC@gmail.com.

Annual membership is \$20 for an individual or couple, which reduces or waives some event fees. Be sure to include your email address. Mail a check to:

Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities
c/o Betsey Norgard
23035 County Road 70
Bovey, MN 55709

Welcome to new members—thank you for your support!
Betsey Norgard, editor





YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A TRADITIONAL SCANDINAVIAN LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

Saturday, January 20, 2018

Service Times: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00

First Lutheran Church
1555 40th Avenue NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

*Ticket Price: \$20.00 Adults
50 cents a year, up through age 10
Tickets will go on sale at First Lutheran Church:
Sunday, December 31st @ 9:00am
OR
Call Cheryl @ 651-633-0679 for Tickets
No Ticket Returns*

www.flcch.org



Finnish Trivia Questions, Quiz 2

Did you enjoy the quiz in the November/December *Uutiset*? Here are some more questions for you. Again, answers appear in the February *Uutiset*.

1. In what year were the Olympic Games held in Helsinki?
2. What is the name of the northern and southern boulevard in Helsinki that will lead you to Market Square and the Harbor?
3. What can you find at Korkeasaari Island?
4. Which well-known Finnish music group had a restaurant at Uudenmaankatu 16-20?
5. What is the number of the tram that is also known as the "City Tram" that makes a trip around Helsinki?
6. Which of the following is NOT true of Finland?
 - a. The country with the largest lake in Europe
 - b. The country with the largest island archipelago in Europe
 - c. Europe's most densely forested country
7. What is the largest lake in Finland?
8. Who was the president of Finland from 1956 to 1981?
9. What is the term of office of the president of Finland?
10. Who was elected president of Finland in 2000?
11. What is the oldest city in Finland?
12. Finns enjoy contests as much as anyone. What unusual contest was held annually from 1999 to 2010?
14. Finland has two official languages. One is Finnish, what is the other?
15. What holiday in Finland, is celebrated on May 1?
 - a. *Juhannus*
 - b. *Vappu*
 - c. *Joulu*
 - d. *Helluntai*
16. This is considered to be sort of a "holiday" in Finland and other Scandinavian countries. Every person in the country has one of their own, and it depends on what the person's name is.
 - a. *Nimipäivä*
 - b. *Sukujuhla*
 - c. *Syntymäpäivä*
 - d. *Juhannus*
17. What was the capital of Finland BEFORE Helsinki?
18. Finland has land borders with Norway, Sweden and Russia. Which country lies immediately south of Finland's capital, Helsinki, across the Gulf of Finland?
19. What animal appears on the Finnish coat of arms?
20. What is the national animal of Finland?
21. With which country does Finland share its longest land border?
22. If you like snow and frigid weather, then you might enjoy a visit to the northernmost region of Finland known as Lapland. Which administrative capital of Lapland is known as the "Official Hometown of Santa Claus"?

Finn Hall at the Eagles!

Friday January 19, 2018

7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

EAGLES CLUB: 2507 E. 25th, Minneapolis

We are back to ring in the new year with your favorite tunes for a fun evening of music and dance! There will be waltzes, polkas, humppas and even a schottische (*jenkka*) and mazurkas and tangos. Food is always available for purchase. Cover charge: \$8. See you then!

Our new "*Laulu Aika*" music group will warm up the evening at 7:30 p.m., then Finn Hall takes the stage at 8 p.m.



(L-r) Wannapa Raker (a wannabe Finn) with Carole Backman and Karen Luoma-Varichak (the real Finns).

Finland 100 Gala at Orchestra Hall, December 6, 2017.

Answers to November/December Quiz

Finnish history buffs—did you test yourselves? Here are the answers. How did you score?

1. To what country did Finland belong to before Russia took possession in 1809? —*Sweden*
2. Who gave Finland Independence and what was the date? —*Russia—December 6, 1917*
3. On November 26, 1939, what did Russia do to try to provoke Finland into war? —*Russia shelled their own city of Mainila, claiming that it was a Finnish artillery attack.*
4. What date did the Soviet Union declare war on Finland, thus starting the Winter War? —*On November 30, 1939, Soviet forces invaded Finland with 21 divisions, totaling some 450,000 men, and bombed Helsinki.*
5. What was the name of the leader of the Finnish Army in the Winter War, who had previously been an officer in the Imperial Russian Cavalry? —*Baron Carl Gustav Mannerheim*
6. How many modern tanks did Finland have at the start of the Winter War? —*13 versus the hundreds possessed by the Soviets.*
7. What name did the Finns give to the incendiary device in a bottle that they created? —*The MOLOTOV COCKTAIL was “a drink to go along with the food” which was an insulting reference to Soviet foreign minister Vyacheslav Molotov, who claimed that their bombing missions over Finland were actually airborne humanitarian food deliveries.*
8. What was the name of the Finnish sniper who had over 500 confirmed kills? —*Corporal Simo Häyhä, nicknamed the “White Death.”*
9. At which battle did the Soviet Union suffer its worst loss of the Winter War?—*The Battle of Suomussalmi—an estimated 7,000 Soviet troops were killed, 2,000 horses were captured, along with hundreds of trucks, dozens of tanks and other supplies.*
10. What was the name of the defensive bunker line that ran across the Karelian Isthmus and formed the backbone of the Finnish defense? —*The Mannerheim Line*
11. The Soviet breakthrough in February 1940 came at the battles of Summa and Lahde. What was the name of the large concrete bunker complex that saw the heaviest of the fighting in these battles? —*The Millionaire Bunker, because it cost over 1,000,000 Finnmarks to construct.*
12. The Finns admitted defeat after the Soviets captured Viipuri. On what date did Finland and the Soviet Union come to a peace agreement? —*March 12, 1940—The Moscow Peace treaty.*
13. How long after the Winter War ended did Finland’s Continuation War begin and who was it against? —*Only 15 months later, on June 25, 1941, when open warfare began with a Soviet air offensive on Finland.*
14. What was the Lapland War? —*The Lapland War was fought from September 15, 1944, to April 25, 1945. Under the Moscow Armistice, Finland was required to force the German Army to leave Finland. The Germans retreated northward to Norway, destroying everything along their path.*

Tervetuloa!

Welcome, new FACA members!

Karen & Youssou Ba, Minneapolis

Tom & Julie Legg, Palisade, Minn.

Deb Terho-Bohunko, Minneapolis

FACA Membership

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Events Calendar

Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!

Jan. 19. January FACA Program. International Institute of Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Jan. 26. Deadline for submitting articles and calendar items for the February *Uutiset*. Send to facaeditor@gmail.com.

Jan. 27. Meeting, Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. Speaker Greg Isola: Genealogy Proof Standard. Plymouth Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m.

Feb. 16. February FACA Program. Laskiainen!

Jan. 20. Traditional Scandinavian Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner. First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave. N.E., Columbia Heights. Service times: 12 noon, 2, 4, 6 p.m. See page 4.

May 3–6. Festival of Nations. St. Paul.

June 23–July 4. FinnFest will take place approximately between these dates in Tampere, Finland.

Tuesdays. Finnish Conversation Group. St. Anthony Park Library, Como and Carter Aves., St. Paul. 4 p.m. More information: Urho Rahkola, 651-429-3319.

Thursdays. Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers. St. Sahag Armenian Church, 203 N. Howell St., St. Paul. 7 p.m. The group does not meet during holidays. New members welcome. Call Dan 763-544-1441.

Fridays. Finns at the U of M Conversation Hour. Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave. SE, Minneapolis. For more information or to check on meeting day/time: karvo001@umn.edu.



*(L–r) Dan and Delores Salin and Carole Backman
Finland 100 Gala at Orchestra Hall, December 6.*

Finlandia Foundation Deadlines

Deadlines are approaching for Finlandia Foundation applications.

National Grants and Scholarships

Project grants (up to \$5,000) to support nonprofit cultural projects of local or national significance up to \$5,000. Deadline to apply is January 17, 2018. For more information and/or an application, go to FinlandiaFoundation.org.

Scholarships

For full-time sophomore or higher college and graduate students in any field at accredited postsecondary institutions in the US or Finland. Deadline is February 1, 2018.

Performer of the Year (POY)

A performer in any field can serve as POY, presenting programs over a year, traveling to at least eight FFN chapters. Includes travel budget and honorarium for each performance. The POY (individuals only, can include an accompanist) must be nominated by a chapter, another organization, or a FFN trustee. Deadline to apply is February 15, 2018.

In Memoriam

Marjorie “Kari” Syverts, age 87, of New Hope, formerly of Cromwell, Minn., passed away Nov. 2, 2017. Marjorie was a proud Finn who loved gardening, golf, running and traveling. She was an active member in Finnish American Cultural Activities for many years, and attended FinnFests around the country while exploring her Finnishness. She was an excellent cook and loving person who will be missed by all who knew her. Memorial service and “Celebration of Life” was held at Kozlak-Radulovich Maple Grove Chapel on December 8.

Conversational Finnish Class
Tuesdays, 4–5:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Library
Corner of Como and Carter Avenue
St. Paul
Everyone is welcome.
For more information, please call
Urho Rahkola at 651-429-3319.

Pieniä Paloja—Short news items from Finland

- Serving coffee and treats at the November program were **Joanne Bergman, John and Marion Rova, Joanne and David Karvonen, and Ester and Mel Niska**. *Paljon kiitoksia!*
- **More young girls than one would think in Finland are now spending lots of time and money designing and crafting their own hobbyhorses**—and in some cases also equipment and stables for them—with many also training and competing in equestrian jumping and dressage. Over 10,000 “riders” now compete regularly around Finland. Events feature walking, trotting, galloping and jumping the stick *keppihevonen*.
—*Finlandia Foundation TC E-News*
- **Several new rules regarding the sale of alcohol came into effect in Finland on January 1**. One of the most noted amendments to the country’s traditionally stringent alcohol policies is to allow stronger drinks (with alcohol content up to 5.5 percent, up from the previous limit of 4.7) to be sold in grocery stores, convenience shops and petrol stations. The New Year will also see a 100-million-euro hike in the alcohol tax. Designed to reduce consumption, the higher tax will most affect the prices of beers, ciders and wines.
- **Newly released statistics show that Helsinki used more coal in 2016 than in the previous year**, causing carbon dioxide emissions to go up by one percent. For a city that has pledged to make itself carbon-neutral by 2035, it is a small step in the wrong direction. Statistics are from the Helsinki Region Environmental Service Authority (HSY). The reason for this growth can primarily be attributed to two factors: a larger reliance on coal for district heating and an increase in traffic emissions.
- According to campaign funding returns filed so far, **Sauli Niinistö’s presidential re-election bid will be funded mainly by members of Finland’s affluent business community**. Roughly half of Niinistö’s supporters were private individuals, who forked out a total of some 726,000 euros. Backing from business enterprises came to about 510,000 euros. Funding from other entities were just under 185,000 euros, most of which came from the Foundation of Private Entrepreneurs (*Yksityisyrittäjien Säätiö*).
—*Yle*