



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

Kesäkuu/June 2013
Summer Calendar

Equality + Cooperation = Excellence

By Mary Belanger

I picked up my newest issue of *American Educator*, and inside was an article about the Finnish education system (*Equality and Cooperation, Finland's Path to Excellence* written by Jukka Sarjala, Spring 2013). It got me thinking of the many times I have seen or heard good things happening in this small Nordic country, education being just one of them.

In this particular article, Jukka Sarjala, director of Finland's National Board of Education from 1995 to 2002, says he is proud of the accomplishments of the Finnish education system. However, Sarjala expressed concern about the way these accomplishments were being interpreted by world policymakers. He says it is the Finnish core values that don't get written about, and this is what has guided the success of the Finnish education system. Those core values are equality and cooperation; together they create excellence.

Education became a necessity after WWII, when Finland lost forest, rail and wealth resources to the Soviet Union. At that point, Finland turned to its social resources, its people and their welfare stressing equal opportunities for all. Finnish employers and unions began working together to rebuild the war-torn country. Finland knew that everyone had their roles to play in creating a modern industrial society.

Those founding principles mean teachers in Finland are given a large degree of trust and autonomy in their classrooms. Students spend four or five hours in school per day, play outside and get little, if any, homework. Schools are publicly funded and, therefore all students receive the same quality education no matter where they live, or who they are, equal opportunity for all. *Peruskoulu* is a nine-year compulsory, common school completed by more than 99% of Finnish students. After *peruskoulu*, approximately 95% of the students continue on to upper-secondary education. This can be either for general or vocational education. All students spend a minimum of half a year engaged in on-the-job training. From here, students may take exams for university or polytechnics admissions.

Now that we understand it is the Finnish core values that play the largest role in a strong education system, maybe we should not just read about what's happening in Finland, but look to adopt some of these successful practices. Equality and cooperation, all students treated equally whether rich or poor, while all teachers, parents, employers, unions and community alike cooperate.

Finland has found excellence in education when ongoing communication and cooperation are built into policy-making. By understanding the history and core values of the Finnish system, we should reevaluate our own. By doing so, the United States could greatly improve our core educational system, creating a better future for all of us.

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President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

Mary Belanger, editor of our newsletter, will be retiring following publication of the June 2013 issue. Mary has served as editor of *Untiset* since February 2007. She has done a wonderful job and will be missed.

Last month we had our annual meeting, which included the election of board members. Two board members, Harlan Stoehr and Glen Bay, completed three-year terms, and the term of Kara Middleton had two years remaining. Thank you to Harlan Stoehr, Glen Bay, and Kara Middleton for their service, and welcome to three new FACA Board members, Janie Ahola, Ruth Erkkila, and John Rova.



Our programs are the strength of FACA, and I believe they are the reasons members attend the monthly gatherings. This year we had entertaining and educational programs by Susan Harstad on Finnish design, and Betsy Norgard presented the tall ships of Aland Island. In November, Ben Dorer talked about ice hockey, the national passion of Finland. Kara Middleton used a video tape on Karelia to complement her presentation in January. In February, the program was the popular *Laskiainen* celebration. Dennis Halme covered the history and meanings of Finnish surnames in March. The April presenter was Alan Ek, the Department head of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota, who spoke on the differences between forests in Finland and Minnesota. Matti Koivula presented the May program. Matti, a graduate student at the University of Minnesota who has been in the United States for ten years, compared the Minnesota culture to the Finnish culture.

Input from members regarding topics for programs is helpful. If you have a specific topic, and or know a presenter, please contact the board. The program chair will assess all ideas.

I have enjoyed being the President of FACA, and I thank all of you for your support. I look forward to renewing friendships next September. Have a good summer.

Matching FinnFest Drivers and Riders

If you are driving to the FinnFest USA 2013 and are willing take passengers or would like to get a ride, please contact me. I will attempt to match drivers and passengers. Drivers, I need your schedule and the number of passengers you are willing to take. If you wish to find a ride, I just need your desired schedule. Contact Richard Harju at (612) 719-4965 or rjharju@yahoo.com.

Check Out the New FACA Website

The FACA website has recently been updated. Jeanne Swope has made the lion's share of the improvements to the site. Please check it out at www.finnfaca.org. Comments, corrections and additions should be sent to bethjarvi@gmail.com.

Board Notes

By Harlan Stoehr



Left to right: Richard Harju, Harlan Stoehr, Glen Bay, Bud Berry, Edith Boos, Kara Middleton

Directors met at 7 p.m. May 15 at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville. All were present.

Fifty-four attended the April program. Minutes of the April meeting were approved and the treasurer's report received.

The meeting consisted mainly of routine review and reporting, including no report from the nominating committee and the audit committee reporting its task completed.

A resolution of appreciation to Mary Belanger for her work as *Uutiset* editor was adopted and directed to be published in the June issue.

The next board meeting will be at 7.00 p.m. August 14 at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville.

FACA's 2013 Annual Meeting

President Bud Berry called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.; 54 were present. The president declared a quorum present and called for a motion to approve minutes of the special meeting of September 21, 2012, to amend the bylaws, and the postponed 2012 annual meeting held the same date. It was so moved, seconded, and approved.

Luella Zibell, audit committee chair, reported that the committee has examined the income, expense, and reserve records for the 2012 fiscal year (FY) and found all in good order. The president thanked the committee for its diligence and discharged it with gratitude for its work.

Edith Boos, treasurer, presented the FY 2012 treasurer's report. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was seconded and approved.

Kathleen Jackson, chair, reporting for a nominating committee of she, Urho Rahkola and Dan Salin, recommended a slate of three candidates to fill the

expired three-year terms held by Glen Bay and Harlan Stoehr, and the remaining two years of the term from which Kara Middleton resigned. The nominees, Janie Ahola, Ruth Erkkila and John Rova, were elected without specification as to which would fill the two-year term and which the three-year terms.

With no further business, the president declared the meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Resolution of Appreciation

Whereas, Mary Belanger has served since February 2007 as editor of the *Uutiset*, Finnish American Cultural Activities newsletter, and

Whereas, through these many years she has patiently endured the vicissitudes of a changing stream of correspondents of various abilities, timeliness, and temperaments, and

Whereas, she has consistently shown proficiency, good humor, steadfastness, and devotion to her work, and

Whereas, in her role as editor she has contributed materially and unstintingly to the promotion of Finnish culture for this organization,

Now therefore be it resolved that we, the board of directors, on this 15th day of May, 2013, thank and commend Mary Belanger for her unselfish contribution to the work of Finnish American Cultural Activities, forward to her this resolution, and direct that, in tribute, it be published in the June 2013 *Uutiset*, her final issue as editor.

Signed: Bud Berry, president; Glen Bay, Edith Boos, Richard Harju, Kara Middleton and Harlan Stoehr, directors

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Visit finnfaca.org this summer to stay current on newly-added activities. Send your Finnish-relating events to bethjarvi@gmail.com

**June-Aug Summer Site:
Conversational Finnish Class**
Tuesdays, 4:00-5:25 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church
2323 Como Avenue West, St. Paul
Everyone is welcome.
For more information, please call
Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319
or finnfaca.org

2013 FON Finnish Café by Junelle/Stuart Bernard and Pam/Urbo Rahkola

A big thank you to everyone who helped make 2013, our combined 15th and final year of chairing the Finnish Café, a success. We had a total of 33 workers who covered the shifts from Wednesday's set-up on May 1 through shutdown on Sunday, May 5. The Café couldn't have happened without all of the hard work from our many volunteers (many who worked double+ shifts): Merja Wilenius, Kathy Chambless, RuthAnn Rintala-Swanson, Dixie Luoma, Linda Mehle-School, Kathy Jackson, Sharon Filiatrault, Carol and Ray Pesola, Linda Davis, Jane and Keith Olson, Edith Boos, Stella Arola, Anita and Bert Johnson, Seija Rahkola, Becky Grams, Margaret and Veijo Paine, Eira Bridges, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Betty Whelecor, Marlene Banttari, Janie Ahola, Marcia Chess, Kendra Kauppi, Karen Neinstadt, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Jeanne Swope, Riikka and Elsa Borg (who became an expert reindeer-sausage sandwich maker!).

We wanted to extend a sincere special thank you to Merja Wilenius, who has been there every day for most of our 15 years, and to Marlene Banttari, who has volunteered year-after-year to wash and press the Café curtain and all of the aprons.

Hopefully, we were able to showcase a positive Finnish identity to the many school children and adults who attended the Festival. Again this year, a number of Finnish exchange students stopped by and were pleased to see us representing their home country.

2013 was not a year without incident, and will be remembered as the "Year of the Big Oil Spill!" Sunday morning, the neighboring Egyptian booth was running late; and when Pam looked up from icing cookies, she watched in horror as their deep-fryer toppled from the table and splashed oil onto the back of one of their workers. The fryer had been turned on only 10 minutes before, so thankfully he was not seriously injured. One of their other workers also burned his arm, trying to prevent the spill. After a quick trip to the emergency room, both fellows were later seen working again in their booth.

However, the ensuing "oil-slick" caused much scrambling and created an oily mess in our booth. We made a quick dash to remove all of the tubs/boxes that were stored underneath the table, and rescued the aprons, etc. from our coat rack when it collapsed. The River Centre crew was able to clean-up and degrease our oily floor under the experienced and watchful eye of Linda Davis, who during the whole ordeal kept up a steady supply of strawberry shortcakes!

We concluded 2013 with total product sales of over \$5,600 and profit of \$2,300 after paying expenses, left-over sales, and coffee donations from our May FACA program.

We truly appreciate all of the time and hard work everyone has contributed over these past 15 years. We're still hoping that something will be worked out for next year, so there will be a Finnish Café in 2014. Please contact the FACA board with any suggestions and/or ideas. *Kiitoksia paljon!*



FACA exhibit booth with Kathy Chambless, Kara Middleton, and Daniel Paszak



Seija Rahkola and Becky Grams



Veijo Paine, Kaarina Kotkavuori, and Merja Wilenius with Margaret Paine in the background.

Photo credit: Urbo Rahkola

June



June 15 Nordic Crime—which is stranger: fact or fiction? FinnStyle, 2:30 p.m., 160 Glenwood Avenue, Minneapolis. Finnish crime reporter and author Jarkko Sipilä will discuss crime in Nordic countries—differences between the countries in homicides, gangs, and drug trade as well as famous cases (including the Oslo massacre, Finnish school shootings, and Stockholm riots). Jarkko will also address the recent rise in popularity of Scandinavian crime fiction, and its roots. Jarkko Sipilä is a Finnish author and journalist. He has reported on crime for more than 20 years, has written 18 books, and co-wrote a TV-series based on the Takamäki books. Through realistic characters and story lines, he explores current topics surrounding life in contemporary Finland.

June 15 Kaivama and Teija Niku, \$15 at the Arts Center of Saint Peter, 7:00 p.m., St. Peter, MN

June 19–23 FinnFest USA 2013, in Upper Michigan's Copper Country, Finn Fest USA celebrations offer speakers and attendees a chance to share with one another their expertise and interests through lectures, workshops, panel discussions, exhibitions, and more. It also gives people outside of the ethnic community the opportunity to learn about their Finnish neighbors. From genealogy to weaving, music to sports, and edu-



Merja Wilenius

cation forums to technology, FinnFest USA explores it all! This year's celebration includes:

- Juhannus Midsummer Celebration (Toivola)
- 100-year commemoration of the 1913 Copper Strike and the Italian Hall Disaster
- Sesquicentennial of the City of Hancock
- Bridgefest (Houghton)
- New Power Tour: Generations of Energy
- Pine Mountain Music Festival
- Reunion of Finnish War Children Evacuees
- arts exhibitions and performances
- spiritual fellowship with multiple denominations
- music and dancing

Something for everyone! Join us! We know you'll be glad you did! For information, finnfestusa2013.org

June 20–22 This year the Finnish Folk Music Camp is offering courses under the umbrella of FinnFest USA 2013. Workshops will take place at Michigan Tech. Come sing and play along and bring your instruments if you have them, or just come to listen and learn. All workshops are offered at no additional charge to your FinnFest 2013 registration and no pre-registration is necessary, just come and enjoy!

June 22 Toimi School—1913 to 1942 Centennial Celebration, 10:00 a.m. The Toimi School Community Center invites you to *Satavuotinen* Art & Education Celebration. Come and share the fun! Enjoy art exhibits, speakers, food, music, flea market, and much more! Toimi School, at the corner of FH11/Lake Cty Hwy 15 and Lake Cty Rd 151. (651) 491-4750

June 24 *Turun Metsänkävijät* Wind Band. Fresh from FinnFest 2013 in Hancock, Michigan, this brass and woodwind band with roots in scouting will perform a variety of Finnish and Finnish-American music from the last 100 years. Founded in 1927 and based in Turku, their name means “forest wanderers.” Come enjoy a rare local performance by this ensemble. St Anthony Village, Salo Park, 3950 Harding Street NE Presented by the St. Anthony Sister City Association. Visit our website, www.ci.saint-anthony.mn.us/ and our Facebook page. Search “St. Anthony Sister City”.



June 28–29 The 36th Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Annual Midwest Viking Festivals will be held Friday and Saturday, June 28 and 29, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead.

Performing at the Festival will be pianist Marja Kaisla, named Finlandia Foundation National’s Performer of the Year for 2013. Born in Finland, she has lived in the U.S. since 1987. Kaisla began studying piano at the age of three and continued her education at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, the St. Petersburg Conservatory in Russia, and with György Sebök in Switzerland, and Susan Starr in Philadelphia. Her extensive classical repertoire includes the standard Western classical

composers’ works from the 18th to the 20th century and more, including a solo program of “White Nights of the Scandinavian Composers.” She also likes to perform less classical selections to audiences with ties to Finland and love for the country. Miss Kaisla is spearheading and implementing numerous 375th Anniversary events in Philadelphia this year, celebrating the Finns’ and Swedes’ settlement of the Delaware Valley.



Students who attend the Soiva International Music Camp June 22–30 at Concordia College, Moorhead will also perform at Hjemkomst. Soiva is an international music camp in partnership between Concordia College and Finlandia Foundation National with additional support from the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society. Marja Kaisla will be working with the Soiva International Music Camp faculty. The students from the U.S. and Finland have private lessons on piano, flute, clarinet, violin, and composition/improvisation, and play in small chamber music ensembles.

The festival will have many other programs as well as a wide variety of Scandinavian foods. The Midwest Viking Festival will demonstrate Viking-Age crafts and have other activities in the Viking Park outside of the Hjemkomst Center at the same time.

On Friday, June 28, 6:30 p.m., there will be a 5K Run/Walk. For more information about the 36th Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Annual Midwest Viking Festivals, visit www.nordiccultureclubs.org, www.hcscconline.org or call (218) 299-5452.

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August.....

August 14 FACA Board meeting, 7:00 p.m. August 14, Perkins Restaurant, Roseville.

August 16 *Untiset* copy due to facaeditor@gmail.com

August 26-27 *Teaching Global Indigenous Issues through Film*. Instructors: Dr. Angelica Lawson, Dr. Matti Jutila, visiting professors from Finland and Toronto TBA, more speakers TBA (Collaboration between Institute for Global Studies UMN, Department of American Indian Studies UMN, and Leech Lake Tribal College; to take place up on Leech Lake Indian Reservation) Participants in this two-day workshop will have the opportunity to view a number of indigenous films, as well as receive resources about others, and discuss various issues which make up indigenous identity in a global as well as local context. The focus of this workshop will be on developing knowledge to facilitate incorporating global indigenous issues into the classroom. We will have Sami visitors from Finland and will be able to hear talks from them and local knowledgeable people about the following issues related to indigenous identity: politics/peace studies, culture and language, food and sustainability and gender issues. Northern Lights Conference Center, Walker MN

<http://igs.cla.umn.edu/outreach/profdev.html>

September.....

Sept 14 Finland MN Harvest Booya, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Harvest Booya Fall Community Festival is back! Join us in Finland, at the Clair Nelson Community Center for a day of food, music and crafts. Clair Nelson Community Center, 6866 Cramer Road, Finland, Minnesota www.facebook.com/FinlandMNBooya

Sept 20 FACA Program, see finnfaca.org

Unique Art Quilts from Finland

“Greetings from Finland” is an exhibit of 23 contemporary wall quilts and 25 original fabric postcards created by two quilting guilds in Finland. These quilts are outstanding examples of Finnish creativity and sense of design. This is the first time they have been exhibited in the U.S. Melissa Nellis and Anita Jain, the Minnesota-based directors of Fiber Arts Cultural Exchange (FACE), invited the guilds to participate in the US exhibit after visiting them in Finland last summer.



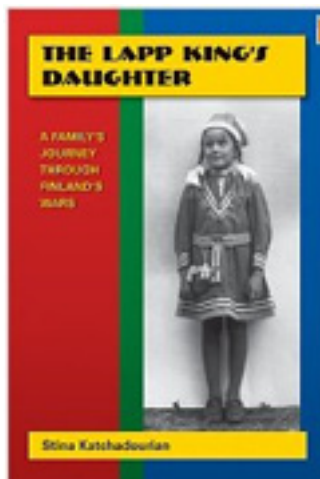
The Jyväskylä Quilt Guild chose the theme “Jyväskylä Valon Kaupunki/Jyväskylä City of Light”. Their pieces reflect each artist’s view of their town, Jyväskylä, which is a university town in central Finland. The second guild called Neuliaiset, whose name was taken from the Kalevala, is a nation-wide guild. The theme for their exhibit is “Finnish Views”. You will be amazed at the creative use of fabric, stitches, and other embellishments.

To see “Greetings from Finland” look for the Special Exhibits section at the Minnesota Quilters 35th Annual Quilt Show and Conference, June 13–15, at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Admission: \$10 single day, \$25 for a multi-day pass.

The Lapp King's Daughter: a family's journey through Finland's wars

by Stina Katchadourian.
Review by Beth Jarvis

This slim book is the biography of a middle-class Finnish family during the three stages of the Winter War. Father goes into the military. Mother and two young daughters first go to a grandmother’s home near Vasa and bounce back and forth between there and Helsinki until neither is safe. Then they move to Ylitornio where they wind up, unfortunately, in the retreating German army’s path and have to flee by boat to Sweden. There they are assisted by a friend of their father’s.



It’s an engrossing history of Finland during those war years, knitted together by recollections and the authors’ parents’ letters to each other. (They may have lost personal possessions, but they certainly saved letters!)

Lapp king? I’ll leave that for you to discover in the book. It’s well-written and is nicely paced to move the story along. There are a few family and other photos included.

Pieniä Paloja

- The May servers were Marlene Banttari, Junelle Bernard and Pam Rahkola. *Kiitos*, servers!
- A new report has found that the exceptional care and advice given to new parents in Finland make it the world’s best place to be a mother. Save the Children International’s Chief Executive, Jasmine Whitbread, said: “By investing in mothers and children, nations are investing in their future prosperity.”
- English remains by far the most-studied foreign language in Finnish comprehensive schools.
- Finland’s men’s ice hockey team lost the World Championship bronze match to the U.S. in a thriller that went into overtime and a shootout.
- A man was caught near Turku after shoplifting 36 ceramic plates depicting characters from the Moomin children’s book series. “Moomin ceramics are very much in demand and they are stolen very often,” according to Inspector Jarmo Lindén of Kaarina police.

Salolampi Summer Schedule

June 10–June 15	Family Week
June 17–June 22	Youth 1-week program for ages 7–11
June 17–June 29	Youth 2-week program for ages 8–15
June 23	<i>Kesämökki päivä</i> (Summer Cabin day) a celebration for former Salolampi villagers and their families, 2:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.
July 1–July 13	Youth 2-week program for ages 12-18

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 _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

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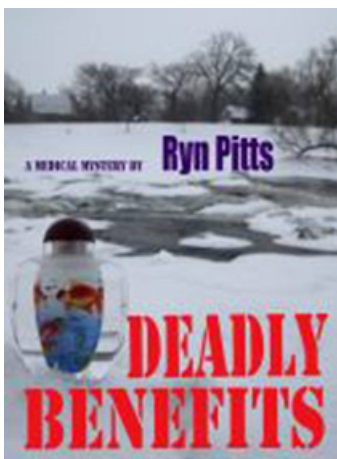
Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.
 P.O. Box 580708
 Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

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

Deadly Benefits
 by Ryn Pitts

When a patient dies unexpectedly in a Fargo hospital, the medical center goes into a defensive tailspin. Heli Harri, a savvy pharmacist and headstrong Finn, is accused of a fatal error while senior physician Dr. Lavelle condemns another lapse in hospital safety. But a tangle of evidence points to murder, revealing the best and worst of those to whom we entrust our health and our lives.



Oppitunti Summer Location

The St. Anthony Park Library is closed for renovation. Until the library reopens (some time in August), Oppitunti will meet at the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Avenue West, two blocks west of the Carter and Como intersection. Use the side entrance on Luther Place street. There is a parking lot across the street at the Lutheran Seminary.

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 |

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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