



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

Maaliskuu/March 2013

History and Meanings in Finnish Surnames **Presented by Dennis Halme**

Do you like your name? Do you know where it came from? Our names are a vital part of who we are. Love them or hate them, they are often the first thing that others learn about us; and we have little control over the impressions that they generate. While our first names identify our uniqueness as individuals, our surnames identify who we belong to and where we have come from. As Finnish-Americans, many of us have surnames that sound unusual in American culture. We may end up spelling, explaining, and pronouncing our names more than once!

At our March program, Dennis Halme will present his recent research into the origin of many Finnish surnames. As in the United States, Finnish surnames are usually inherited patrilineally. However, the origins of Finnish surnames lie in a few distinctly different traditions. Dennis will acquaint us with these traditions and share the specific meaning or origin of some common Finnish surnames. It is our hope that you may discover something that will enrich your understanding of your own Finnish heritage.



Program In Brief

Finnish Surnames
Dennis Halme

March 15, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

Raised in the Finnish community of Detroit, Dennis's familiarity with Finnish-American culture came as naturally as breathing. He remembers shopping with his mother for *nisu* and pasties on Woodrow Wilson Street (the main thoroughfare of Detroit's "Finn Town") and attending many programs at the local Finn halls. His first music lesson with a Finnish-American accordionist, as a boy at the age of ten, started him on a life-long career as a performer and preserver of Finnish-American dance hall music of the twentieth century. Dennis is one of the founding members of the local band, Finn Hall.

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President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

The February program, our annual *Laskiainen* celebration, featured a traditional pea soup meal, enjoyed by all. The program also featured the awarding of the Sauna Bucket for 2012. Congratulations to recipient, Evelyn Eskeli, long time advocate of all things Finnish.

FACA promotes Finnish culture at the Festival of Nations each May and has been doing the Café for many years. Pam Rahkola spoke about the need for volunteers for this event. To learn more of what is involved, please contact Pam Rahkola at rahkola.urho@comcast.net or (651) 429-3319. (See page 4.)

Future FACA Board actions will include the formation of an audit committee and a nominating committee to recommend candidates for the two director terms expiring in May. Please contact me or any director if you are interested in serving on either committee or as a director..

All FACA programs are open to the public. Please invite your family, friends and others to join us. We are an inclusive organization which invites members and non-members alike to participate. FACA offers many social networking opportunities, the *Joulu celebration* in 2012 being the latest example. We welcomed five visitors at our last program, and I hope to see them again in the near future.

Until next time . . .



It was a nice day on the hard water!
Photo credit: Arto Järvelä near Uhvila, Western Finland

Board Notes

By Harlan Stoehr



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

Directors met at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville, February 13. All were present but Middleton, who was ill.

Eighty-six attended the January program. Minutes of the January 16 meeting were approved and the treasurer's report was read. After some discussion of the benefit of and procedures for conducting an audit, there was general agreement that the president should establish an audit committee. The president next observed that a nominating committee also is needed this spring; the board authorized him to appoint one. Terms of Bay and Stoehr expire in May.

Hospitality Chair Harju reported plans to add cinnamon toast as a regular snack item at future programs.

The new Sauna Bucket Award pin was shown and the matter of awarding to past recipients discussed. An effort is to be made to see that each living recipient of the award receives a pin.

Harju, chair of the Editor Search Committee (he, Mary Belanger, Beth Jarvis, Marlene Banttari, Urho Rahkola and Kara Middleton), reported that Jeanne Swope has agreed to succeed Mary Belanger, who will complete her service with publication of the June 2013 *Untiset*. The board discharged the committee with appreciation for its service.

Interim board action taken by phone and email to authorize a letter supporting the Nordic Lights Film Festival's grant request of Finlandia Foundation for 2014 was ratified.

Changing the registered office location was discussed and tabled for consideration following board reorganization in June.

The potential benefit of forming a photographer pool was discussed. Discussion morphed into the relative merit of having an historian and the desirability of establishing a functional photo identification, retention, and retrieval system. It was all talk, no action.

The question of FACA taking paid advertising in its newsletter or on its website was addressed, including whether FACA's status as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization prevents it from doing so (it does not). A major concern of directors is the burden that handling advertising would place on volunteers who edit and compose FACA's newsletter and manage its website. Directors agreed that because the editor and graphic designer would bear the brunt of this burden, that the president ask them to serve as a team, to which they may add others whose counsel they would value, to assess whether FACA should take paid advertising, and to give the board their recommendation.

FACA's soon-to-be 30th anniversary was noted, with general agreement that it be referred to the program chair for observance at the March meeting.

The next meeting is set for Wednesday, March 13, at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville, at 7:00 p.m.

Kantele Class Offered in March

Come learn how to play the kantele! Diane Jarvi is offering a class beginning in this month.

In six sessions we will learn to play beginning/intermediate level music for the five-string kantele. We will also cover some history of the instrument, care and maintenance, and discover the many dynamic kantele players of Finland. Here is your chance to learn to play that instrument you may have tucked in a corner somewhere! Rental options will be available. We will meet Wednesdays 7:00-7:45 p.m., starting March 20. Cost for six sessions is \$80.00.

For more information, contact Diane Jarvis (612) 822-5273, jarvi@usewireless.com or email her from her website www.dianejarvi.com

A class is also available for beginning 10-string kantele. Please contact her for more 10-string information.

Diane Jarvi has played the kantele for over twenty years. An award-winning musician and poet, Jarvi studied kantele at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. She has recorded five solo CDs and is a former member of Koivun Kaiku, a local kantele ensemble. She was a recipient of a McKnight-MacPhail Performing Fellowship and was named Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year. Jarvi has given kantele workshops and demonstrations around the country and in Canada. She received a grant to teach kantele for a year residency in Cokato, Minnesota.

Festival of Nations Café 2013

By Pamela and Urho Rahkola

The 2013 Festival of Nations will be held May 2-5 at RiverCentre in St. Paul. Junelle and Stuart Bernard and Pam and Urho Rahkola will co-chair the Finnish Café this year.

We are beginning to make plans and will be asking for volunteers to help staff the cafe. All volunteers will receive a free entrance ticket to the Festival. The menu will be pretty much the same as last year: *piirakka* with egg butter, pickled herring on FinnCrisp (plain or in sour cream/lingonberry sauce,) reindeer sausage and Finnish havarti cheese on rye bread, strawberry shortcake, lemon cookies, *pulla*, lingonberry cocktail, and egg coffee.

The festival is open during the days on May 2 and 3 for students only.

Public hours are:

Friday, May 3: 4:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 4: 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m. (closing time may be extended on Saturday)

Sunday, May 5: 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

Workers in the cafés are required to wear a costume representative of their ethnic background. We have aprons and scarves for the ladies and ask men to wear dark slacks, white shirts (or collarless shirts), and a fisherman-type cap, if they have one. Suspenders are a nice touch and we have a few pair available. If you have worked in the café in previous years, you will likely receive a call from Pam to see if you are available again. Thank you to those who have already requested shifts. We will have more information and schedules at the next two FACA programs.

The remote shuttle lot will again be available this year. Parking passes for \$2 must be purchased through us ahead of time. So far, no discount will be offered for the parking ramp across the street.

Baking Day will be on Saturday, April 27, at the White Bear Lake South Campus High School kitchen, where it has been held for many years. We will be there from 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. and need workers for that event, also. This is the day we bake the cakes, cookies, and *piirakkas* for the Café.

If you have any questions about either event before the next program, please call Pam at (651) 429-3319 or email pamela.rahkola@comcast.net

Kiitos!

New Chairperson(s) Needed For 2014 Festival of Nations Finnish Café

By Pam Rahkola and Kara Middleton; endorsed by FACA Directors

After a combined 15-year total, Junelle/Stuart Bernard and Pam and Urho Rahkola are stepping down as chairpersons for the Festival of Nations (FON) Finnish Café. One or more volunteer(s) are needed to step into this important position for 2014.

The Twin Cities Finnish community has staffed a Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations since at least 1939. (The Festival just celebrated its 80th anniversary in 2012.) This is a good opportunity for someone new to step into this role, continue the celebration of our Finnish culture and heritage at the FON, and introduce the global community to some of the foods we enjoy.

The menu is totally at the discretion of the chairperson(s), so this would be a good opportunity to try some new ideas! Nonetheless, we recommend keeping the core items: strawberry shortcake (*mansikka kerma kakku*), lemon cookies (*sitruuna kakut*), herring (*silli*), and egg coffee. These items are the most popular, and people have come to expect and look forward to purchasing them over the years.

We would like to keep our booth, but unless someone can be found to take over there will no longer be a FACA-sponsored Finnish Café in 2014. If no one from FACA steps forward, we will look to another Twin Cities Finnish organizations to take it over. If no one can be found, the Finnish cafe space will be released. Once that is done, there is no assurance of again being able to have a Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. Any new request would go on a waiting list, and another Café would be possible only if a space opened up. Another affordable approved baking location would have to be found at that time.

If you are considering volunteering, it would be helpful to come forward and “tag” along during this year's Café, to learn and feel comfortable with what is involved. The Rahkolas and Bernards have volunteered to help train the incoming 2014 chairperson(s) and give their assurance that whoever steps forward for 2014 will not be abandoned.

Welcome New Member!
Leonore Heino of Shoreview, MN
Tervetuloa!

Bill Toivonen at Laskiainen

Attending the *Laskiainen* program to enjoy the pea soup and company was long-time Finnish-American cultural supporter and FACA member Bill Toivonen, along with his daughter Kay and family friend the Reverend Margaret Scott. Bill was in fine form, enjoying talk with old FACA friends, meeting new people, and telling tales from his years of activity in Minnesota Finnish circles.



Bill, now 101 years old, grew up in the Finntown area of north Minneapolis in the era of dirt streets and lamplighters. His parents, who immigrated separately from Finland, met and married in Chicago. The Toivonen family represents three generations of house painters, daughter Kay Toivonen says.

Bill was an active member and also served as president of the Finnish American Historical Society, an organization that long preceded FACA and was involved in aid to Finland during the Winter and Continuation Wars, promoted the creation of the monument to Finns in Minnesota in Theodore Wirth Park in 1958 during the State Centennial celebration, and helped begin the Sister City relationship with Kuopio, Finland 41 years ago. "Kuopio is so well organized, they could run Chicago," Bill said. The Society was also involved in organizing the first FinnFest, which took place in Minneapolis in 1983.

"As I mentioned to the oldtimers, I'm glad that someone is carrying on," said Bill Toivonen, referring to celebrating Finnish-American history and traditions.

A Moment in History

By David Hanley | 12/24/08

Minnesota's Finns waited until 1958—Minnesota's centennial year—before erecting a four-ton granite monument in Wirth Park to their pioneer ancestors, honoring "their ideals, industry and 'sisu.'" That latter word, roughly translated, means "guts"—as in strength of will or determination.

Iltapäiväkahvi Afternoon Coffee



Please join us to celebrate Minna Canth Day, on Tuesday, March 19.

Iltapäiväkahvi Afternoon Coffee, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., (with a brief program at 5:30 p.m.) will be held at 425 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis, next door to Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church, with parking in adjacent lot.

During this 40th year of partnership between the cities of Minneapolis and Kuopio, we will commemorate the life and legacy of Minna Canth (1844-1897), Finland's foremost writer and social activist, on her birthday. March 19 is the first flag day in Finland to honor a woman and is also designated as Social Equality Day.

Please RSVP by March 13 at <http://minnacanthday.eventbrite.com/>. There is no cost for this reception.

For additional information, email MplsKuopio@gmail.com or call (651) 270-9784.

Minneapolis Kuopio Partnership
Sister Cities since 1973
www.MplsKuopio.com

Minneapolis Kuopio Partnership Executive Committee: Karl Reichert, Chair; Betsy Norgard, Secretary/Treasurer; Sue Harstad; Ben Horn; Andrea Kajer; and Jouko Sipila. Ex officio: Bill Deef, Meet Minneapolis; Beth Satrang, Meet Minneapolis; and K. Marianne Wargelin, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Finland.

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 _____

Email _____

February Program Recap

By Kara Middleton

FACA attendees celebrated *Laskiainen* and kept the cold weather at bay with a meal of pea soup, bread, a variety of salads, and other fine dishes at the program on Friday, February 15. Unusual circumstances prevented the planned activity of a Finnish trivia game, but in spite of the lack of formal entertainment, lively conversation and mirth were in abundance.



After dinner, the winner of the 2012 Sauna Bucket Award was announced. Evelyn Eskeli received this honor due to her long career of service to FACA and to the Finnish American community in the Twin Cities.

Ms. Eskeli graduated from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, with a B.A. in Business Administration. She worked in the Twin Cities for Arthur Anderson and later for the Billy Graham Association. Her involvement with all things Finnish began not long after she moved to the Twin Cities. Ms. Eskeli has been a member of the FACA Board, President of the Salolampi Foundation, and for many years ran the annual Salolampi Phonathon. She has also volunteered

many times at the Festival of Nations and served food at FACA programs.



Ms. Eskeli is presented the Sauna Bucket by 2011 Sauna Bucket winner Kaarina Kotkavuori.



This year the board introduced a new element to the ceremony: a decorative lapel pin commemorating the Sauna Bucket award. Unlike the bucket itself, which is a traveling trophy, the pin will be a lasting keepsake for award recipients. Those who have won the award in previous years will also receive the pin.

Photo credits: Urho Rahkola

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

Pieniä Paloja

- There were no dedicated servers at our *Laskiainen* celebration last month. However, we wish to thank all the people that brought items to be shared. There was a lot of delicious food, and the evening was a success. *Kiitos!*
- Sirius Sport Resort, a new recreational sports resort, is about to be completed in Pyhtää. The resort's number one attraction will be Finland's first vertical wind tunnel. The tunnel provides the effect of a free fall from an airplane. A section of the tunnel is transparent, letting onlookers see the people flying inside it.
- Rovio, the parent company of *Angry Birds*, is expanding its wings to the John F. Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. The company is also opening *Angry Birds* theme parks within next 12 months.
- Finnish national carrier Finnair, which celebrates its 90th anniversary this year, has returned to profit after five years of losses.
- Nokia, Fazer, Finnair and ABB are the most popular Finnish corporations on the YouTube video platform. According to Arctic Startup website, YouTube reaches 520,000 Finns a day, or roughly 10 percent of the population.
- Two museums in Finland have been nominated for the European Museum of the Year Award 2013. The Carelicum, North Karelian Museum in Joensuu, celebrates local history and folk tradition in its permanent exhibitions. The Maritime Museum of Finland in Kotka is a national museum whose role is to preserve and interpret the history of Finnish seafaring. The award will go to a museum which contributes most directly to attracting audiences and satisfying its visitors with unique atmosphere, imaginative interpretation and presentation, a creative approach to education, and social responsibility.
- The Finnish chili pepper producer Fatalii Gourmet has succeeded in creating probably the hottest chili pepper variety in the world to date. The new product is sold as a powder under the name Fatalii Gourmet Jigsaw.

Additional Calendar Items from page 8

dwyers@ties2.net or (612) 822-0743.

April 27 Festival of Nations Café Baking Day, White Bear Lake South Campus High School kitchen. 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Questions to Pam (651)429-3319 or pamela.rahkola@comcast.net (See page 4 for more info.)

May 2-5 Festival of Nations, St. Paul RiverCentre.

May 10-12 Salolampi Spring Work Weekend. For more information, salolampi.org

May 12 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Valo*, <http://finnish.imdb.com/title/tt0453413/>

2013 Festival of Nations: Children, Our Past and Our Future

The Festival of Nations is the largest multicultural event in Minnesota. It is designed to offer opportunities to develop an appreciation and understanding of the culture of others. The theme this year is *Children, Our Past and Our Future*.

The Festival of Nations began in 1932, a program of the International Institute of Minnesota, providing an interactive educational experience about the different cultures that make up our community. Now it has grown; and over 90 ethnic groups participate to share traditions and customs, through food, music, arts, and dance in an uncommercialized event. The vendors who participate are or represent nonprofit organizations for the purpose of educating the community about their cultures.

The Festival of Nations is a family-friendly event open to all ages. There are five areas of the event: cafes, demonstrations, exhibitions, dance, and bazaars. In addition, four stages of music run continuously throughout the four days. You can travel the world under one roof as the many cultural exhibitors stamp your passport, proving to be a fun, interactive learning activity for the entire family!

Advance tickets will be available April 2- May 1 at all Twin Cities Byerly's locations or at the International Institute of Minnesota.

Advance Mail Orders:

International Institute of Minnesota
1694 Como Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108

Advance Adult: \$11.00 (\$13.50 at the door) Advance Youth 16 and under: \$8.00 (5 and under free with adult admission) Visa/MC accepted.

A World Pass is good for all of the days of the festival but can only be purchased in advance at the International Institute of Minnesota, April-2 May 1. Adult World Pass: \$15, Youth ages 6 to 16: \$10

The Festival of Nations is held at the St. Paul RiverCentre (next to the Xcel Center), downtown St. Paul. Two parking lots are connected to the RiverCentre and multiple lots are available within easy walking distance.

Calendar, cont.

Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.

June 19–23 FinnFest USA 2013 will be held in Upper Michigan's Copper Country. For more information, finnfestusa2013.org



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

Mar 10 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, Members choice, 6:00 p.m., Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.

Mar 11 FACA Salolampi scholarship deadline.

Mar 12 Mn. Wild vs. Anaheim Ducks 5:00 p.m. social, 7:00 p.m. hockey game. Group tickets, contact Jouko Sipala at jsipila8@gmail.com or call (952) 941-6627.

Mar 13 FACA Board meeting, Perkins Restaurant, Roseville, 7:00 p.m.

Mar 14-16 Passport machine in Minneapolis Please schedule an appointment: (612) 374-2718, email: kmwargelin@comcast.net Honorary Consul for the Republic of Finland, 2429 Girard Avenue S. Minneapolis, MN 55405

Mar 15 FACA Program

Mar 16 Finn Hall, St. Urho's party at Kramarcuk's www.kramarczuk.com music and dancing, great food, family friendly event, no cover charge! 215 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, (612) 379-3018

Mar 20 Learn to play the kantele with Diane Jarvi. Wednesdays from 7:00-7:45 p.m. (612) 822-5273, jarvi@usiwireless.com or www.dianejarvi.cim (See page 3).

Mar 22 *Untiset* deadline facaeditor@gmail.com

Mar 23 Finnish Genealogy Group 9:30 a.m. Guest presenter, Calvin Tormanen, will discuss surnames and

how they were selected and changed over the years. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. More information: FGGMN website or dwyers@ties2.net

April 5 SUO (a Finnish trio) and Kaivama in concert 7:00-9:00 p.m., Lloyd Ultan Recital Hall, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis www.suomusic.net/ www.kaivama.com/

April 13 Family Afternoon Featuring Sámi Yoiker Stina Fagertun, 1:00-5:00 p.m., American Swedish Institute, Minneapolis. This program is included with museum admission; no registration required.

April 14 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Hella W* <http://www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=1015> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.

April 19 FACA Program

April 26-27 Minnesota Genealogical Society will sponsor a first-ever Nordic Genealogy Conference, Inver Hills Community College, Inver Grove Heights. Highlights: Three plenary speakers, 18 breakout sessions, hands-on research assistance, translations, vendors, more. Great programs even if you are not "into" genealogy. Early bird discounts through March 15. Saturday bag lunch included. Information: www.mngs.org (information and online registration) or Joan Dwyer:

Calendar-cont. on pg. 7