



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC. March/Maaliskuu 2014

Tales of Light and Laughter Presented by Julie Goldstein

Do you have cherished memories of stories told by your parents or grandparents? Then come to this program and listen to storyteller Julie Goldstein tell Finnish and Jewish folktales.

A folktale is a story or legend from the oral tradition of ordinary people passed down from generation to generation. These tales often take on the characteristics of the time and place in which they are told, and help people make sense of and cope with their world.

Julie was born in Hinsdale, Illinois. Her mother claims that Julie didn't speak until she was about three and a half years old. Then words tumbled out in complete sentences and she began telling stories. "My mother and grandparents loved to tell stories—it's in the genes," Julie says. "I enjoy sharing folktales with the community and finding what connects us through humor." Julie believes that everyone has an inner storyteller just waiting to burst forth.



Program In Brief

Storytelling Julie Goldstein

March 21, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

She moved from the Chicago area to the Twin Cities about 25 years ago. She received her training in storytelling at the Guthrie Theater. She has taught the art of storytelling at Hamline University, St. Catherine University, the woman's prison in Shakopee, and in her home. Julie also teaches creative writing and English as a second language.

Her interest in Finns and Finnish folktales grew from her reading about labor history on the Iron Range. Julie saw a parallel between the Finns and Jews in their participation in the labor movement in the early part of the twentieth century and in issues of discrimination and exile, struggle for independence, and in their self-deprecating humor.

FACA 2012-2013 Board of Directors

President:
Bud Berry
(651) 777-6704
bud987@hotmail.com

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

Secretary:
Ruth Erkkila
(651) 454-5441
rutherkkila@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Publicity:
Edith Boos
(612) 522-7708
eb.boos@usiwireless.com

Hospitality:
Richard Harju
(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

The snowy weather and slippery streets were a challenge on February 21, the day of our Laskiainen program. But a number of brave members made it and had a fine time. The traditional pea soup and many side dishes were enjoyed by all.

Janie Ahola, our FACA vice president and program chair, led the gathering. Kathy Jackson talked about the history of Laskiainen and how it ties into the flax/linen production year.

The final event of the night program was the awarding of the sauna bucket **bucket to** a FACA member who has been outstanding in FACA and the Twin Cities Finnish Community.

I hope to see you next month!



The Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations

By Kathryn Hill

All the paper work due to the Festival of Nations for the Finnish Café is in. The food license application to the State has gone into the mail.

Volunteers Needed

Baking Day will be April 26 at the White Bear Lake High School kitchen. I hear it's a lot of fun!

Café set up will begin at 3 p.m. on April 30, 4-5 people.

Work in the Café during the Festival of Nations—Thursday, May 1 through Sunday, May 4—five-six people per shift. There will be two shifts Thursday, four shifts Friday and Saturday, and three shifts Sunday. The last shift on Sunday will include clean-up and load-up.

Questions and Sign-up

If you have any questions or want to sign up to volunteer, give me a call at (218) 252-1392 or email me at kathryn@irenesfavoritethings.com. I can tell you what days and times are available. So far, it is all open! I will be available all day everyday.

I would like to thank everyone in advance for your help and support. This event can't happen without you!

Board Notes

By Ruth Erkkila



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

President Bud Berry called the FACA Board meeting to order at 6:37 p.m., February 18, in the Board Room of the Ramsey County Library, Roseville. Present were Bud Berry, Janie Ahola, Ruth Erkkila, Richard Harju, and John Rova. Absent: Edith Boos.

The agenda and minutes of the last meeting were approved. Treasurer Edith Boos sent her report early, since she was out of town at the time of the meeting.

The February program will be a *Laskiainen* celebration. The announcements will be short, then we will eat pea soup brought by the Board members. Kathy Jackson will present some information about *Laskiainen*. The Sauna Bucket will be awarded to the new recipient, who will keep it for one year. The winner will also receive a pin to keep forever.

Bud and Janie went to the Festival of Nations meeting at the International Institute on February 9. Bud went to the food meeting, and Janie went to the exhibit meeting. Kathryn Hill has made the required payments for the Finnish Café. Janie turned in the required paperwork for the Finnish exhibit. The exhibit will highlight Ahtisaari Day, in honor of former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008, and is observed annually in Finnish schools. On that day, students learn peaceful means of conflict resolution.

There will be a baking day to prepare food for the Café. We will need volunteers for baking day and also to staff the exhibit and the cafe during the Festival. Volunteers were requested for the flag ceremony, and interested people can contact contact Stanley Wiatros at stanley.j.wiatros@irs.gov or (651) 312-7732.

John Rova noted that no mention of FACA is made in the *Finnish American Reporter* either in the news section or the calendar. Ruth will investigate how to correct this. FACA is also not represented on the first page of the Minnesota Finnish Pages.

John is now a board member of the Archives at the University of Minnesota. There are 24 board members and all are graduates of the U of M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

The next meeting will be March 18 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Ramsey County Library in Roseville.



European Parliamentary Elections: Why We Need to Pay Attention

Wednesday, April 23, 6 to 8 p.m.
American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave.,
Minneapolis

Join European experts and policy makers to discuss the 2014 European Union Parliament elections taking place May 22–25, the current status of the EU, the role of the parliament in the EU and key European and national issues facing voters across the pond. The evening is part lecture, part expert roundtable and part Q&A. Watch for more details at www.ASImn.org.

This event is cosponsored by the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota, Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities, and American Swedish Institute.

For more information, contact Betsey Norgard at norgard@northlc.com or (651) 270-9784.

Free. Registration is recommended; call ASI at (612) 871-4907.

Salolampi Foundation Offers “Finnish Partner Organization Scholarships”

The Salolampi Foundation is expanding the reach of its scholarship program with a new plan to offer funds to Salolampi villagers through sponsoring Finnish Partner Organizations. The Foundation will provide \$100 for each villager who applies with the sponsorship of a Finnish Partner Organization. Villagers may apply through multiple Partner Organizations and will be eligible to receive scholarships on a first-come-first-served basis until the budgeted funds have been depleted.

“We as a foundation exist to support Salolampi, and we feel the best way to do that is to make it easier for more kids to attend camp,” explained Salolampi Foundation president, Tiina Watts. By reducing financial obstacles that might prevent families from choosing Salolampi as an option for their children, the Foundation hopes to increase enrollment with the ultimate goal of reaching full capacity for all summer sessions.

What is a Finnish Partner Organization?

Any established organization that promotes Finnish language, heritage, or cultural awareness may sponsor villagers. “Our hope is to fill the village this summer and also to build lasting relationships with heritage organizations that have the common goal of maintaining Finnish cultural awareness for generations to come,” said Watts.

Further, if Finnish Partner Organizations provide financial support from their own budgets for additional scholarships, the Salolampi Foundation will match this support dollar for dollar by increasing Partner Organization scholarships to \$150 per villager, per organization. The Salolampi Foundation invites Finnish organizations to register as a partner in sponsoring Salolampi villagers. To get started, organization representatives are invited to email the Salolampi Foundation at info@salolampi.org.

How to Apply

Interested villagers may request Finnish Partner Organization scholarships for use toward summer residential programming, which includes overnight camps ranging from one to four weeks. For 2014, this scholarship application can be accessed from www.salolampi.org or concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/Registration/scholarships1.php

The Finnish Passport Machine

By Marianne Wargelin

The passport machine is coming March 13–15 to Minneapolis to service Finnish citizens' needs for passports. Consul Minna Niemi will travel to Minneapolis to handle all the passports.

With a sense of urgency, I want to inform you that I still have many appointment openings for Thursday, March 13, and Friday, March 14. Please send me an email to request an appointment time. If we do not make good use of the passport machine, the Consulate in NYC will probably not return again in a year. It's a "use it or lose it" situation. The Finnish Foreign Ministry is looking for ways to cut expenses, and the passport machine's visit to the Twin Cities is always in jeopardy.

If we fill the time slots on Thursday and Friday, we can be guaranteed that the passport machine will return in February or March of 2015.

Please note: If you have children who are Finnish citizens, they can apply at this time for first passports. If you or your children are dual citizens, you will find it easier to certify that you are a Finnish citizen if you keep your Finnish passport active. For children wanting to attend school in Finland or the E.U., the Finnish passport verifies that they have the right to stay in Finland or the E.U. longer than the 90-day visa waiver program permits. With the Finnish passport, they can work throughout the E.U. without a work visa.

Welcome New Member!

Lesley Kadish of St. Paul

Tervetuloa!

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

Genealogy 1.0: Who Knew Matt Damon Is Part Finn?

Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota,
Thursday, August 7, 2014

The title above refers to the day-long genealogy seminar that will be put on by the Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota (www.minnesotafinnish.org/) in Minneapolis. The *Genealogy 1.0* seminar is intended for adults at all levels of genealogy searching experience and will provide both lectures and opportunities to talk with genealogists whose expertise is searching out Scandinavian roots.

The event is part of the FinnFest USA 2014 festivities taking place in Minneapolis August 7 to 10. The cost of the seminar is \$20 in conjunction with FinnFest registration or \$25 at the door.

Registration will be processed through the FinnFest USA 2014 website, .finnfestusa2014.org/finnfest-2014/. The seminar will be limited to 200 participants.

In addition to basic genealogy techniques and tricks, this year's themes are the 150th anniversary of Finns arriving in Minnesota and a celebration of Swedish Finns, given their strong presence in Minnesota.

Seminar lecturers include:

Dan Necas, an archivist at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center, who will talk about the many Finnish archives housed at the Center.

Deborah Miller, a reference specialist at the Minnesota History Center, who will describe the extensive collection of Finnish immigrant archives.

Dan Karvonen, Ph.D., senior lecturer in the University of Minnesota's Finnish Studies Program, who will speak about genetics and linguistics as they relate to genealogy.

Kent Randell, an archivist at St Mary's College of Maryland, who will lecture on the archiving of Finnish materials as well as his own work on palimpsests.

In addition to these lectures, there will also be sessions devoted to the following topics: genealogy searching basics, searching among the

Swedish-Finn archives, an explanation of changing Finnish surnames, and a talk comparing results of the four common DNA testing kits. The expert genealogists from the Finnish Genealogy Group will also be on hand to provide you with personal insights.

The location of both the *Genealogy 1.0* seminar and FinnFest USA 2014 is the Hyatt Regency Hotel, located in the heart of downtown at 1300 Nicollet Mall in Minneapolis.

Please join us in this educational, fun-filled event.

Contact Gus Fenton for further information, gfenton@skypoint.com

Finland: Designed Environments

Associate curator Jennifer Komar Olivarez will discuss her three years of research on Finnish design, craft, and architecture in preparation for the upcoming exhibition *Finland: Designed Environments*, organized by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts with support provided by the Consulate General of Finland in New York and the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

American Craft Council Library, 224 Marshall St NE Suite 200, Minneapolis, May 7, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

This event is part of the American Craft Council's Library Salon Series, a series of free public presentations exploring craft making and art. It is co-presented by the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Space is limited. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

The MIA exhibition, May 10 to August 17, will be available during FinnFest USA 2014.

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 Janie Abola

Liukasta laskiaista (“have a slippery sliding day”) took on a new meaning on the evening of our *Laskiainen* program. Dangerously slippery roads kept many (wise) members at home, but everyone who came brought a good appetite for pea soup! We began our *Laskiainen* celebration by feasting on a variety of pea soup (yellow, green, vegetarian), breads, salads, appetizers, and desserts.

During dessert, Kathy Jackson gave an interesting presentation on the process of making linen from flax. Kathy began by placing a sample of flax stalks on each table with which the audience could “experiment.”

The process: The growing cycle for flax is short, with only 100 days between sowing in March and harvesting in July. The plant flowers by the end of June and then ripens. When the leaves yellow and the seeds turn brown, the flax is uprooted by hand and spread to dry. When dried, the seeds are removed by pulling them through a coarse comb in a process called rippling. The long, silky inner fibers are then separated and retted, a process of rotting away the inner stalk by soaking in water (such as a stream). The stalks are then cleaned, dried and tied into bundles. The process of breaking is used to break up the inner stalk, separating it from the flax fibers. The flax is scutched—beaten against a board with a blunt wooden knife. The final process is hackling, in which the fiber is drawn through a series of combs to remove the shorter fibers and any chaff that is left.

Spinning follows. Depending on the spinner, flax can either be spun from a distaff (a tool which keeps the fibers separated and properly aligned during spinning) or may simply lay flax fibers in their lap. By the second month of the lunar year, all knitting must be done, and the spinning wheels are tied up so they can't be used. *Laskiainen* festivities mark this seasonal division. Afterwards weaving begins.

Kathy also talked about some of the traditions and superstitions of *Laskiainen*. To complement the presentation, she showed us a delightful film of young men and woman performing a folk dance that mimics the steps in processing flax.

Gil Kinnunen received the 2013 Sauna Bucket Award in recognition of his contributions to FACA and the Twin Cities Finnish American community.

Gil graduated from the University of Minnesota, Duluth in 1969 with a degree in English and speech and earned a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary (New Brighton) in 1973. He taught high school English and served as an adult educator with the State of Minnesota for various agencies, retiring in 2006.

Gil has been a FACA member (20 years) and served on the Board as vice president and program chair. He has volunteered at the Festival of Nations Finnish Café and cultural exhibits, served as editor, contributing writer and proofreader for the FACA *Utiset*, and given presentations at FACA programs.

As a Salolampi Foundation board member (15+ years), Gil has participated in Salolampi's Adult Week and Work Weekend and helped plan the first Soiva Music Camp.. He serves as a contributing writer, editor, proofreader and photographer for the *Salolammen Sanomat* newsletter (2001 to present); and served on the executive committee for five years, during which time he was President Elect, President, Past President, and Acting Secretary.

Gil has attended FinnFests for 10+ years, and delivered presentations and planned and worked in booths there. He served on the planning committee for Martti Ahtisaari's visit during the Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College (2012). He has been a Finnish American representative for organizing the annual Leif Eriksson International Festival. He is currently on the task force planning a 2014 memorial for the First Finnish Methodist Church in the U.S.

Kiitos to Urho Rahkola, Kathy Jackson, and Ruth Erkkila for our music entertainment!



Pieniä Paloja

- *Kiitos* to all the FACA members who brought fine salads, appetizers, side dishes, bread, and dessert to accompany all the pots of pea soup from the Board members!
- Helsinki City Museum is opening up its collections online <https://hkm.finna.fi/> (so far only in Finnish). For example, see what Helsinki looked like over 100 years ago: <http://bit.ly/1cHEJCN>
- February 2014 has been exceptionally warm in Finland. Weather statistics from the Lapland province of Sodankylä going back 113 years show that only February 1990 was warmer. Regardless, there is still a normal amount of snow in the north, and ice is solid on waterways, except in areas with a strong current. February in southern Finland has been unusually warm. The ground has been virtually without snow for some time, and along the coast snow can only be found north of the city of Raahе.
- Finnish forest products company UPM has been actively marketing tracts of forest in eastern Finland ranging in size from 500 to several thousand hectares. Last year, foreign investors—most of them German—bought nearly 9,000 hectares of forested lands. Over the past two years, the Finnish investment company Taaleritehdas has already snapped up 13,000 hectares of forest property in areas such as northern Savo and northern Karelia. The sale prices are not disclosed, but according to UPM marketing chief Jorma Saarimaa, these are big deals running into millions of euros.
- Finnish athletes returned from Russia with a medal haul that surpassed all expectations. Although they trailed neighbor Norway in the medal count, the untiring efforts of Finland's winter Olympics contingent resulted in a respectable haul of five medals: one gold, three silver and one bronze.

News items from yle

Condolences

Laurie A. Middleton, age 51, of Edina, passed away February 25, 2014.

Preceded in death by parents and brother. Survived by sister, Kara; sister-in-law, Nyla; nephews, Peter, Henry, and Joshua, and niece Abigail; aunt, uncle, cousins and dear friends.

Additional Calendar Items from page 8

May 7 *Finland: Designed Environments* with MIA Associate Curator Jennifer Komar Olivarez. American Craft Council Library, 1224 Marshall St. NE Suite 200, Minneapolis, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. *More information: page 5.*

May 12 to 18 Salolampi Finnish Language Village Spring Adult Week. More information: www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/Programs/adults1.php

May 24 Opening ceremony for FinnFest 2014 in Cokato, where the first modern Finnish immigrants settled 150 years ago. **June 27 to 28** 37th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead.

Aug. 7 Day-long genealogy seminar at FinnFest 2014. *For more information, see page 5.*

Aug. 8 to 10 FinnFest 2014, Twin Cities. For more information: www.finnfestusa2014.org

Thursdays. The Kisarit Finnish American Folk dancers meet every Thursday at the International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave, St. Paul, 7:00 p.m. New members welcome. Call Dan (763) 544-1441.

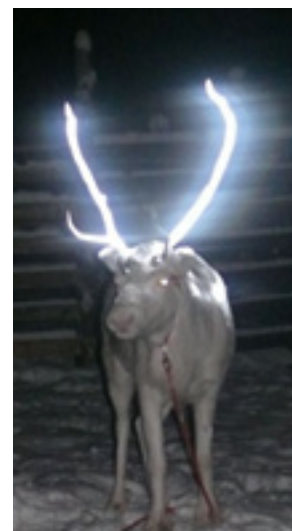
Fridays. Finlanders at the U of M conversation hour meets at Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave. SE, Minneapolis (very near Folwell Hall), 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. For more information: karvo001@umn.edu

Glittering Antlers to Improve Road Safety

Finland's Reindeer Herders' Association is testing two reflective sprays on reindeers' antlers to make the animals more visible to motorists on Lapland's dark roads.

Association workers are testing how long the reflective sprays retain their brightness under different weather conditions, and where on the animal they last longest. "The spray is being tried on their fur, but it is maybe more effective on their antlers because the reflection can be seen in every direction," says Reindeer Herders' Association Executive Director Anne Ollila.

Image: Anne Ollila / BO, Source: yle





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. 13 to 15 Finnish passport machine in Minneapolis. 2429 Girard Avenue S. Minneapolis. More information: K. Marianne Wargelin, Honorary Consul for the Republic of Finland, (612) 374-2718, kmwargelin@comcast.net

Mar. 14 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, www.finnhall.com, www.kramarczuk.com

Mar. 16 St. Urho's Day

Mar. 16 Finnish Culture through Movies group. *Kulkeuri ja joutsen (The Swan and the Wanderer)*. 6:00 p.m., Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie group page: www.minnesotafinnish.org (select "The Finnish Language School of Minnesota," then "Age Groups," then "Finnish Culture through Movies") or call (651) 428-3155.

Mar. 21 FACA program, 7:30 p.m., International Institute of Minnesota

Mar. 22 Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Gus Fenton: genealogy presentation given at FinnFest2013. 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 FGA web pages: www.minnesotafinnish.org (select "Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota," then "Meeting Information")

Mar. 28 Deadline for submissions for April *Untiset*. Send to facaeditor@gmail.com

Apr. 18 April FACA program, 7:30 p.m. International Institute, St. Paul.

Apr. 23 *European Parliamentary Elections: Why We Need to Pay Attention*. American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis, 6 to 8 p.m. *For more information: page 3.*

Apr. 26 Baking Day for the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. White Bear Lake High School. More information: Kathryn Hill at (218) 252-1392 or kathryn@irenesfavoritethings.com

May 1 -4 Festival of Nations. RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. For information: www.iimn.org/festival-of-nations/. For information about or to volunteer to help in the Finnish Café: Kathryn Hill at 218-252-1392 or kathryn@irenesfavoritethings.com. To volunteer in the Finnish exhibit booth: janieahola@msn.com

Calendar-continued on page 7