



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

Toukokuu/May 2013

Navigating the Cultural Landscape of America: One Finn's Experience

Matti Koivula

Minnesota has the second highest population of Finnish-Americans in the United States. This might lead one to believe that a native Finn would blend in here effortlessly, without any cultural challenges whatsoever.

Not so. Native Finns who move to Minnesota travel a cultural distance that is as great as the geographic distance. University of Minnesota PhD student Matti Koivula knows this very well. "When someone says to you, 'Hi, how's it going?'" he says, "you tell her how your day is going, right? You always go to sauna nude and throw couple scoops of water on the rocks, right? Tuna on a pizza is great, right? And in winter, when it snows, you just ski to school, right?"

Join us at our May program as Matti talks about growing up in Finland and the cultural differences he has experienced while living alternately in the United States and in Finland over the last ten years.



Matti was born and educated in Rovaniemi, Finland. While an undergrad at Rovaniemi Polytechnic in 2002, he came to Springfield, Missouri, to study for a semester; that semester turned into 10 years and counting. After this study abroad semester, he completed a couple of internships in Kansas City, Kansas, while living with a host family. During this time he met his wife, Angela.

Program In Brief

Finnish Cultural Landscape
Matti Koivula

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

Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

In 2008, after receiving his master's degree in Educational Technology at the University of Missouri-Columbia, he moved to Minneapolis to pursue a PhD in Learning Technologies at the University of Minnesota. Currently, Matti is working on his dissertation while also teaching Apple iPhone app development courses. Angela is also pursuing a PhD at the University of Minnesota. They both hope to graduate next summer, in 2014.

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President's Message

By Bud Berry

By the time you read this message, FACA will have taken part in the Festival of Nations in St. Paul. The Festival has developed five kinds of events, which include cafés, demonstrations, exhibitions, music and dance, and bazaar.

At the April program, Pam Rahkola, who has organized the Café for the last two years with Urho Rahkola, updated us on the status of the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. She reported that baking day plans were on schedule, and she was still looking for some more workers for the Festival days.

Here is some background information for you. This event is sponsored by the International Institute of Minnesota. The primary purpose of FACA's participation is to support this international event and to promote Finnish culture. In 2013, FACA provided the Finnish Café, presented an exhibit centering around education of children in Finland, and sponsored Irene's Favorite Things (from Park Rapids, MN) as a vendor in the bazaar. FACA has operated the Finnish café since 1983. Right now, there are no volunteers to begin learning to organize and run the café and committing to this role for next year and, hopefully, beyond. If there are no volunteers to manage the café for 2014, the Finnish Café space will have to be released next year. We hope that our tradition will continue. Please consider what role you could take in regard to this.

Besides the program planned for our May meeting (see page 1) and our usual coffee/social hour, we will also hold our (brief) annual business meeting. We will elect two board members to serve three-year terms (May 2013–May 2016) and one member to serve a two-year term (May 2013–May 2015). You will also hear about the results of the recent audit of the organization's finances. It will be interesting to hear the recommendations coming out of the audit.

Remember that FACA programs are open to the public. If you have friends who are interested in Finnish or Finnish-American culture or just interested in the program topic for a particular month, please invite them to join us. New people are always welcome!



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. April 17, At Perkins Restaurant, Roseville. All were present.

Fifty-eight people attended the March program. Minutes of the March meeting were approved and the treasurer's report received.

President Berry reported conversations with three organizations that may be interested in operating the Festival of Nations (FON) Finnish Café.

Vice President/Program Chair Middleton announced her resignation effective May 17, which was accepted with regret.

The board reaffirmed the agreement with Irene's Favorite Things (IFT), Park Rapids, Minn., by which FACA is the nonprofit organization sponsor of IFT as a vendor at the annual FON Bazaar. In return, IFT pays all fees and contributes to FACA a percentage of net profit from Bazaar sales.

President Berry reported appointing Kathleen Jackson (Chair), Urho Rahkola and Dan Salin as the nominating committee, and Luella Zibell (Chair) and Stella Arola as the audit committee.

Richard Harju rescinded his resignation announced at the March meeting; this change was accepted with appreciation.

FACA's membership in the Finnish expatriate organization *Suomi Seura* was renewed for 1 year.

The board appropriated \$800 for FACA Salolampi scholarships in 2013. There are four applicants.

The May board meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at Perkins Restaurant, Roseville.

We Sinners by Hanna Pylväinen

Reviewed by: Beth Jarvis

This novel is the story of the Rovaniemi family of Michigan with nine children and two parents. Early on, the father is elected pastor of their Laestadian church by the community after the current pastor claims he loves the pastor role "too much."

Each chapter is told by a different family member. The children try to blend in with their schoolmates and try to hide the restrictions caused by their faith from school friends while battling the stigma that everyone knows they're from a super-large family. Over time, at least three children opt to leave the church.

There are some references to Minnesota but only in passing remarks.

It's an engrossing novel that I read in one sitting. I can't say I learned much about their church.

The last chapter dealt with a tribe of reindeer herders in the distant past. I don't understand why it was included.

New Scholarship Available for College Students Attending Salolampi Finnish Language Village

A new 50 percent reduction in tuition scholarship will be granted to college or university students who wish to attend a Salolampi Adult Week or Family Fun Weekend program at Salolampi Finnish Language Village in Bemidji. To qualify, the student must have attended or graduated from an accredited college or university within the calendar year. One scholarship per person per year is allowed, **limited to the first 12 qualifying applicants**. See www.salolampi.org for more information on the language village or to download an application for the scholarship and register for a language immersion course.

Conversational Finnish Class

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

St. Anthony Library

Corner of Como and Carter Ave.

St. Paul

Everyone is welcome.

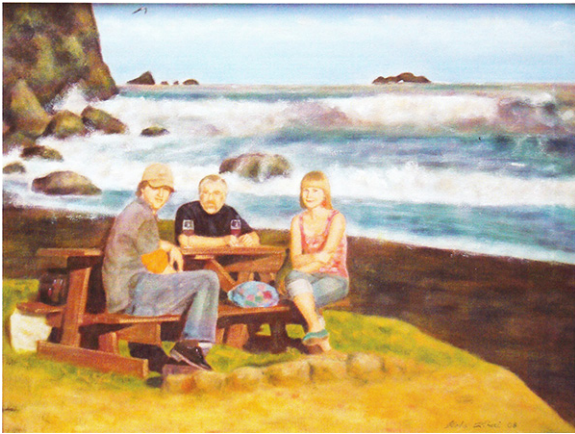
For more information, please call

Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

Kiheri Exhibit at Christ Church Luthern

By the Water, the oil paintings of Karla Kiheri will be featured at Christ Church Lutheran in the Education Building from now until June 9. You are all invited to an artist reception on Sunday, May 12, from 11:00 a.m.–4:00 pm.

Additional hours and times: Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or Sunday, May 19, May 26, June 2 and June 9, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm.



Karla Kiheri, *The Last of Summer's Wine*, 2008
oil on canvas, 27"x20"

Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian Folk Music Festival to be held June 7 and 8

Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian Folk Music Festival, June 7 and 8, 2013, features about 150 folk musicians performing on three stages, day-long dancing opportunities on two dance floors, dance instruction, a cultural children's activity/performance tent, and great Scandinavian food—all under the shade of the majestic Norway pines at the Nisswa Pioneer Village in Nisswa, Minnesota.

We are going into the 14th year of the festival, and yet another special lineup of award-winning musicians from Scandinavia has been arranged. They include: Harald Haugaard and Helene Blum, Denmark—Denmark's most acclaimed fiddler and singer combine their talents; Marie Skavnes and Lars Berg, Norway—first-prize winning fiddler in the 2012 *Landsfestivalen i gammeldansmusikk* in Norway teams up with a fantastic accordion player; Polka Chicks, Finland—top flight duo on fiddle and accordion (and they tell jokes that are funny!); Bjärv duo, Sweden—fiddle and nyckelharpa combine to make great things happen; Mette Jensen and Kristian Bugge, Denmark—master musicians on accordion and fiddle who won this year's Danish Grammy for best traditional music. USA groups and individuals appearing include the Ripple River Fiddlers,

Ole Olssons Oldtime Orkestra, Finnish/American duo Kaivama, Ivares Pojkarna, Andrea Een, Skålmusik, the American Swedish Institute Spelmanslag, Twin Cities Hardingfelelag, Hutennanny, Finn Hall Band, the Footnotes and about a zillion others!

Basic schedule:

June 7

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Scandinavian music and dancing workshops, Nisswa area, open to public. (See website for details including fees.) Email Janet Hill for information at: janet.hill@rocketmail.com

7:00 p.m. Gala Opening Sampler concert, Lutheran Church of the Cross, \$15/person. All tickets available only at the door. Sales start at 6:00 p.m.

9:30 p.m.–1:00 a.m. Old time dance featuring several bands. Nisswa American Legion Club

June 8

10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Nisswa-stämman Festival (Nisswa Pioneer Village) \$10 adults/ \$1 children 15 and under. All tickets available only at the gate.

4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Smorgasbord (Nisswa American Legion) \$15 tickets available on Friday night and Saturday at the events.

7:00 p.m.–1:00 a.m. Old time dance featuring even more bands than Friday night. Nisswa American Legion Club.

For more information visit the web page at <http://www.nisswastamman.org/> or contact Paul Wilson, (218) 764-2994 nisswastamman@nisswastamman.org



Historical Church Tours

Free docent-led public tours of Christ Church Lutheran are offered on the first Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m., following the 9:30 worship service. Private and group tours may be arranged for other times by emailing reservations@christchurchluth.com. The \$10 per person fee includes a \$5 souvenir booklet about the building. Tour fees go to preserving this National Historic Landmark.

April Program Recap

FACA members and guests heard an informative talk by Dr. Alan Ek at the April program. Dr. Ek, who is head of the Department of Forest Resources at the University of Minnesota, spoke on the differences in views and uses of forests between Finland and the United States.

Urbanization in the United States has allowed people to become less connected to their regional forests, leaving them unaware of environmental and economic dependence upon them, as well as risking mismanagement of environmental resources due to inattention and lack of education. Living in one of the most heavily forested countries in the world, the people of Finland feel very much connected to their forests, as their valuing of nature coincides with an appreciation of forests as a major supplier of export income. Dr. Ek discussed the management of forests and land in favor of the production of wood, the facilitation of recreation, and the enhancement of bio-diversity in Finland and in Minnesota. While the Finns are very much connected to their forests, both Minnesota and Finland can continue to learn to value land and trees in sustainable ways.

Several audience members asked engaging questions after the talk. Attendees then lingered over coffee and treats.

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.

Summer Calendar Issue Seeks Summer Activities

Our June issue is traditionally the summer calendar. If you know of a June-September event of interest to the Finnish community, please send info on the event to facaeditor@gmail.com.

Finn Creek Festival

Finn Creek is an 18-acre interpretive site a few miles southeast of New York Mills, Mn., devoted to the preservation the heritage of the Finnish Culture. Open all summer, the site includes an original 1900 Finnish farmstead, log barns, *savu* smoke sauna, sawmill, church and gift shop. Finn Creek is sponsored by the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society, Chapter 13, New York Mills.

The last Saturday and Sunday in August the site is host to Finn Creek Festival, an annual celebration featuring entertainment, demonstrations, food, tractor pulls and threshing grain with old threshing machines. The Festival is a bargain; in 2012 admission was \$4 for one day, \$6 for a 2-day pass. The food is plentiful and bargain priced.

Program details will become available as the Festival date approaches at www.finncreek.org or, with luck, by calling (218) 385-2233.

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.

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.

Baking Day Report

By Pam Rahkola

We had another successful Baking Day on April 27 for the Festival of Nations. Thank you to everyone who came to help. We completed in record-breaking time!

A big thank-you to Junelle Bernard for overseeing the *piirakka* contingent and preparing the *riisi puuro* and “mulling” the punch. Also thanks to Stuart Bernard for once again taking on the unenviable dish-washing detail, while in the lingering grips of “the alien.”

The cake-mixing duo of Kathy Jackson and RuthAnn Rintala-Swanson completed the task at a blistering pace. This year they were aided by the very capable new pair, Gretchen Francis and Kendra Kauppi, who kept up a steady supply of prepared cake pans and filled them with cake batter for baking.

Kathy Chambless and Dixie Luoma again performed the yeoman's task of mixing 30 batches of cookies, as well as mixing a batch of icing and preparing the *piirakka* dough.

The cookie rolling crew also put in a record performance and completed their task well ahead of schedule: Linda-Mehle School, Minna Richardson, Carol Pesola, Edith Boos, Stella Arola, Delores Salin, Roxy Knuttila and Frank Janezich. Several of the cake crew also slipped in to help after finishing their task. The cookies have never been completed at such a fast pace! The *piirakka* crew also put in another stellar performance: Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope, Andreas Ostenso, Kara Middleton, and aided by additional members from the cookie crew. Also thanks to the packaging crew who did a great job yet again this year, and completed the final step of packaging all of the baked goods and boxing them up ready for storage: Urho Rahkola, Janie Ahola, Daniel Paszák, and Dan Salin.

We completed 60 cakes, over 200 dozen of cookies, and nearly 250 *piirakkas*.

A tremendous job was performed by all!
Kiitoksia Paljon!



Janie Ahola and Dan Salin.



Edith Boos, Kendra Kauppi, Minna Richardson, Delores Salin, and Gretchen Francis.



Frank Janezich, Daniel Paszák, Kaarina Kotkavuori, and Kara Middleton



Stuart Bernard
Photos: Urho Rahkola

Pieniä Paloja

- Coffee and treats at the April program were provided by Kathy Chambless, Linda School and Betty Wheelacor. *Kiitos!*
- Are kids in Finland, and in the United States too clean for their own good? Finland has the world's highest rate of Type 1 diabetes among children. Out of every 100,000 Finnish kids, 64 are diagnosed annually with the disease. Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/The-Unintended-and-Deadly-Consequences-of-Living-in-the-Industrialized-World-199164051.html#ixzz2RmxcpGFM>
- A sister theme park of the Angry Birds Land made its debut recently in Tampere. Situated near the Angry Birds Land, the Doghill theme area was named after the fairy tale figures created by Finnish cartoonist and children's story writer Mauri Kunnas.
- Women receive considerably smaller pensions than men in Finland. In general, the gender gap was greatest on the coast, while the gap was smaller in eastern and northern Finland. Equality expert Marianne Laxén pointed out that problems persist even among women in official employment. "We know that there are still large differences in men's and women's salaries, and this lingers long into retirement," noted Laxén.
- Despite frequent warnings from authorities, people still venture out onto the weakened sea ice in late spring. The Turku Maritime Rescue Centre ordered rescue squad units and medical staff using hovercraft and rowboats to assist nearly 20 people, mostly fisherman, trapped on an ice flow recently.
- Flash-to-pay cards may become new norm for small transactions, as contactless payment systems that allow payments to be made by merely flashing a credit or debit card or other device over a reader are likely to be operational in many Finnish retail outlets, possibly as early as this spring.
- The National Institute for Health and Welfare is to produce a report this year, which will be used by politicians as they decide how Finland should arrange care for those in the country illegally. Under current legislation, municipalities must provide emergency care to all; but the report seeks to specify the kinds of non-urgent, but necessary, treatment that can be given to those who are illegally present in the country.

Welcome New Member!
Eleanor Kraker, St. Paul
Tervetuloa!

Additional Calendar Items from page 8 will perform a variety of Finnish and Finnish-American music from the last 100 years. Founded in 1927 and based in Turku (west of Salo, our Sister City), their name means "forestwanderers." Come enjoy a rare local performance by this ensemble. Salo Park, is located just south of 39th Ave. N.E. in St. Anthony Village. Presented by the St. Anthony Sister City Association. Visit our official website and our Facebook page. Search "St. Anthony Sister City"

June 28-29 The 36th Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Annual Midwest Viking Festivals will run from 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. at the Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, Minnesota. For more information about the festivals, visit www.nordiccultureclubs.org, www.hcscconline.org or call (218) 299-5452.

August 16 *Untiset* copy due for September. Send 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. (Collaboration between Institute for Global Studies U of M, Department of American Indian Studies U of M, 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, receive resources about others, and discuss various issues that make up indigenous identity in a global and local context. The focus will be on learning how to facilitate incorporating global Indigenous issues into the classroom. Sami visitors from Finland and local knowledgeable people will give talks about 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.clu.umn.edu/outreach/profdev.html>

Sept 14 Finland Harvest Booya 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Join us for food, music & crafts. Clair Nelson Community Center, 6866 Cramer Road, Finland, Mn. www.facebook.com/FinlandMNBooya

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.)

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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

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

May 12 Artist Reception, *By the Water*, oil paintings by Karla Kiheri, Christ Church Lutheran, Education Building, 11:00a.m.–4:00 p.m. (See pg. 4.)

May 12 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Valo* <http://finnish.imdb.com/title/tt0453413/> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis. More: Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.

May 12-18 Salolampi Spring Adult Week, salolampi.org

May 15 FACA Board meeting, 7:00 p.m. Perkins, Roseville

May 17 FACA meeting and program

May 18 Finnish Genealogy Group, 9:30 a.m. Topic: Annual meeting, officer elections, award, sharing, and discussion of summer research plans. No meetings June-August. We will resume on Saturday, September 28. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. More information: FGGMN website or dwyers@ties2.net

May 24 *Untiset* copy due for summer issue

May 30 Tango Pohjan CD release party, 7:00-9:00 p.m., American Swedish Institute.

June 8 27th Annual Finnish-American Summer Festival, Timber Hall, Embarrass, Mn. 10:00 a.m.–4:00

p.m. Entertainment all day, vendors, demonstrations, boot-throwing, *pulla* pull, Finnish meal, tours of historic homesteads. \$4.00 admission; Sponsored by *Sisu* Heritage, Inc. *Sisu* Heritage members free as well as children 12 and under. For more information contact Pat Heikkila, (218) 229-2198 or Marlin at (218) 984-3012.

June 8 Nisswa-stämman, Nisswa. This is the 14th annual celebration of Scandinavian and Scandinavian/American folk music in northern Minnesota www.nisswastamman.org/ (See pg. 4.)

June 19–23 FinnFest USA 2013 will be held in Upper Michigan's Copper Country. For more information, finnfestusa2013.org (*Carpool info pg. 5.*)

June 22 Toimi School—1913 to 1942 Centennial Celebration, 10:00 a.m. The Toimi School Community Center invites you to *Satavuotinen* Art and Education Celebration. 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 23, 2 p.m. Salolampi *Kesämökki Päivä*. A Village experience of fun, food, beach, kiosk, dinner and singing at the “Salolampi Summer Cabin Day.”

June 24 *Turun Metsänkävijät* Wind Band at Salo Park. This brass and woodwind band with roots in scouting

Calendar-continued on page 7