



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

May/Toukokuu 2014

From Finland with Saxophones Melanie Brooks, the Kaze Saxophone Quartet and Blue Waters Brass Ensemble

Enjoy a night of fun while learning more about Finnish music as Melanie Brooks brings the Kaze Saxophone Quartet and Blue Waters Brass Ensemble to our May program.

The Kaze Saxophone Quartet and its alternate configuration, the Blue Waters Brass Ensemble, are composed of Melanie Brooks (soprano), Jenni Berg (alto), Zach Sander (tenor), and Chris Roberts (baritone). Accompanied by Melanie Paulsen on piano and Eri Isomura on marimba, they will perform works by Janne Ikonen, Jukka Linkola, and Daniel Gordon. Pieces include a tango, "Fuente de la Passion," a unique blend of instrumental colors, and Jukka Viitasaari's "Rabbit's Gambit."

A 2011 graduate of St. Olaf College and fifth grade and senior high band director in Pine City, Melanie holds a deep interest in conducting, pedagogy, saxophone, and Finland. Next year, as a Fulbright Scholar, she will study in Peter Ettrup Larsen's Wind Orchestra Conducting Masters' Class at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.



Melanie with Peter Ettrup Larsen with whom she will study in 2015

Program In Brief

**Finnish Music
Melanie Brooks**

May 16, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

Melanie will also work intensively with four of the twelve professional military wind orchestras in Finland; rehearse the *Kapubandi* ("conductor's band," an elite auditioned ensemble comprised of the best instrumental students at the Academy); conduct at least one other professional ensemble outside of Finland; and have a chance to perform with premier Finnish saxophonist, Olli-Pekka Tuomisalo, in his Helsinki Saxophone Ensemble.

Melanie's interest in Finland and Finnish music began while she was studying at St. Olaf College (a school founded by Norwegian-Americans with absolutely no ties to Finland). Dr. Paul Niemisto, brass methods teacher and Finnish brass band enthusiast, opened her eyes to this fascinating country.

Continued on pg. 2

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President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

The presentation on current views of the origins of Finns by Dan Karvonen was very well-prepared and very interesting.

By the time you read this, the Festival of Nations will be over. I hope you enjoyed participating in the Finnish cultural exhibit booth and the Finnish Café, watching the performances, and shopping in the Bazaar.

In our cultural booth, to illustrate the Festival theme, "Peace among the People," our committee designed a mini Finnish classroom and provided information about "Ahtisaari Day," honoring Finland's former president and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Martti Ahtisaari. On this day, many of Finland's schools take time to focus on the principle of negotiating to resolve international problems. A quick quiz game with a peace-sticker prize, passport stamping, and translation of names into Finnish were offered to visitors.

The Finnish Café, managed this year by Kathryn Hill of Irene's Favorite Things and staffed by FACA volunteers, offered the same menu as last year, including strawberry shortcake, egg coffee, pickled herring with lingonberries and sour cream on flatbread, Karelian *piirakka*, *pulla*, and more.

Thanks to everyone who helped out!

Our May gathering will include the brief annual meeting and election of new Board members, followed by a musical program, "From Finland with Saxophones." Read about the program on the front page of this newsletter, and please come! Coffee and treats will be served as usual.



May Program, continued from page 1

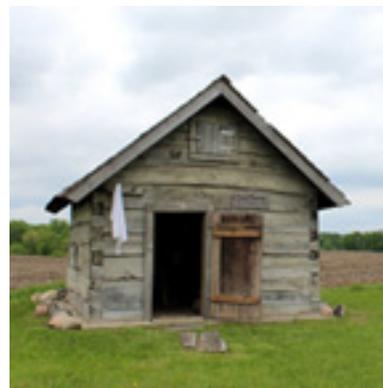


The Blue Waters Brass Ensemble. Four of its members form the Kaze Saxophone Quartet. The groups will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. May 16 in FACA's May program at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

FinnFest USA 2014 Celebration Begins in Cokato on Saturday May 24

FinnFest USA is creating six months of activities to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers in the Finnish immigration to North America, starting in May 2014, and continuing into November. (FinnFestUSA 2014 <http://www.finnfestusa2014.org/150thanniversary/>)

Come and celebrate the opening of FinnFest 2014 with a special commemoration honoring the original Finnish immigrant pioneers! Commemorative program begins on May 24 in Dassel Cokato High School's Performing Arts Center at 1:00 p.m. Cokato is located about one hour's drive west of the Twin Cities on Highway 12. (Take 394 and stay on it as it turns into 12.)



Early Finnish Sauna

Speaker: Arnold Alanen, author of *Finns in Minnesota*. Music: Diane Jarvi, Finn Hall Band, Finnish Choir and Dassel-Cokato Band. Performance: Kisarit Dancers

Attendees at the program will receive a souvenir booklet with historical information and location map. There will be a *tori* in this area with crafters' market and various booths from 10:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to visit Temperance Corner (County Road 3 at 100) to visit the preserved buildings and enjoy many other attractions, including additional tours, music, performers, a reindeer, special things for children, raffle and membership table, and coffee. The historical museums in Cokato and Dassel will be open all day for additional tours. Drawing at 5:00 p.m. for prizes includes electric sauna stove, homemade Sami doll, two quilts, sauna gift set, and stained glass (do not need to be present to win).

Follow the maps for self-guided tours along the Finnish Pioneer Highway with markings of places of interest along the way, including visiting the old cemeteries and church.

No registration required. Everyone welcome. *Tervetuloa!*

Sponsored by Cokato Finnish American Historical Society.

Board Notes *By Ruth Erkkila*

The FACA Board meeting was called to order by President Bud Berry at 6:38 p.m., April 15, in Perkins Restaurant, Roseville. Present were, besides Bud: Janie Ahola, Ruth Erkkila and Richard Harju. Absent: Edith Boos and John Rova.

The March meeting minutes were accepted as published. Ruth will send a calendar item and article about FACA to the *Finnish American Reporter*.



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

Bud has appointed an audit committee of Lou Zibell and Stella Arola to audit the 2013 financial records. Janie reported that our speaker for Friday Melanie Brooks has contracted with a composer to create some new music for her saxophone quartet and asks if we could help with this cost. We said that it would be OK for her to pass the hat for donations.

The Board discussed Festival of Nations details and the volunteer schedule.

Bud has appointed a nominating committee to solicit candidates for the two open board positions. The election will be in May at our Annual Meeting. Ruth will help prepare a report of activities for the past year, and there will be a Treasurer's report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The next meeting will be in the Board Room of the Ramsey County Library in Roseville on May 13 at 6:30 pm.

The Living Tradition of Ryjy – Finnish Rugs and Their Makers May 31–November 2, 2014

A new exhibit at American Swedish Institute highlights the evolution of Finnish textile art and designers. *The Living Tradition of Ryjy—Finnish Rugs and their Makers* showcases



the 300-year history and evolution of the ryjy rug across Finland. Begun in the 16th century for production of utilitarian cloth and bed covers, the hand-knotted craft has incorporated innovative techniques and experimental fabrics resulting in some of the world's best textile art for homes and public spaces.

Adapted from the Swedish word *rya*, the Finnish word *ryjy* represents a centuries-old practice of creating intricate piled rugs. Finnish women created bed covers to keep their families warm during the cold Finnish nights and rugs used in wedding celebrations to keep the couple's feet warm on the cold church floors. The traditional rugs were made for everyday use, and their designs echoed centuries-old Nordic motifs.

ASI also celebrates Finnish material and social culture through two related educational projects: *Explore with Moomin* in the ASI Family Gallery (June 7–Nov. 2) and the installation of sauna-related activities throughout the summer. ASI and the Weavers Guild of Minnesota will offer a series of workshops inspired by Finnish textile design, and ASI will offer an *Introduction to Finnish* language course for the first time in more than a decade.

Exhibit Opening Talk: *The Living Tradition of Ryjy* with Dr. Tuomas Sopenan. Saturday, May 31, 10:00–11:00 a.m.

Nordic Encounters: Gallery Talks with Dr. Tuomas Sopenan

Sunday, June 1, 12:30 and 2:30 p.m.: Dr. Tuomas Sopenan leads two exhibit opening gallery talks of *The Living Tradition of Ryjy* (included with museum admission.)

Note: More information about this and other special events this summer will appear in the June *Utiset*.

Volunteer Opportunities for FinnFest USA 2014

Sign up to work a few hours during FinnFest USA 2014. Be a greeter, a ticket taker, a helper to musicians and speakers. Help people register, pick up registration packets at the registration desk, buy raffle tickets at the FinnFest USA booth. These and other tasks are available. No task is difficult. No assignment involves more than a few hours. All tasks provide interesting opportunities to interact with people attending the festival.



Experience the festival from the inside. Know you'll make valuable contributions to this year's Finnish American pop-up town, August 7–10. For one weekend only, Finland and Finnish American sights, sounds, and tastes will define the southern end of Nicollet Mall. You can help it be a welcoming and easily accessible community.

Sign yourself up. Ask your neighbors, friends, and family members to sign up. Tell them to “come on down” to share the spirit of the festival. All ages and genders welcome. Let us know if you have physical limitations. We have tasks for everyone.

Volunteers need not be Finnish. However, we are looking for a few people with Finnish or Swedish language skills to help out. We especially want to help Finnish and Swedish language speakers feel welcome.

Check the FinnFest USA 2014 website (www.finnfestusa2014.org) for further information, including a form to fill out to indicate your availability and interests. Call Debra Brisk, our Volunteer Coordinator, to send you a form or answer other questions. You can reach her at (763) 257-7872

Help us make FinnFest USA 2014 an easy and friendly event for everyone.

Introduction to Finnish at the American Swedish Institute

Pubutko suomea? Gain a solid introduction in the Finnish language. The course focuses on speaking and using Finnish in practical situations, but we'll also work on reading and writing skills. By the end of six sessions, you'll be able to have a basic conversation in Finnish with a native speaker; and you'll also be able to conduct simple transactions such as ordering food at a restaurant and buying a train ticket.

Tuition: \$95 ASI members/ \$115 nonmembers. All class materials included. Instructor: Dan Karvonen, Senior Lecturer at the University of Minnesota. Wednesdays, July 9–Aug. 13, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Register by July 2.

1864 ————— 2014
The Finnish Line
 150 Years
 Commemorate Program

Finn Fest Cokato, MN.
 **May 24, 2014**

| <u>PAC</u> | <u>Temperance Corner</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Program 1:00 P.M. | Bake Sale 9:30 |
| Tori 10-3:00 | Tours 10:00-5:00 |
| Booths: History | Coffee |
| Prize tickets for sale | Prize Tickets for sale |
| Food-Mary Raisanen | Music |
| Coffee | Childrens play-4:00 |
| Music | Drawing at 5:00 |

Other Places Open on Sat

- Cokato Museum 8:30 to 4:00 - Mon. 8:30-noon
- Dassel Museum 9:00 to 1:00 - Mon. 9-12
- Laestadian Church 9:00 open- Coffee
- Tour cemeteries (map)
- Old First Finnish Church grounds

Last Call for Finnish Travel Memories or Wishes

By Jeanne Swope

Is there a place in Finland you visited or a place you want to visit and think about? Please share with *Utiset* readers!

For June, tell us: where it is, why it calls to you, in just a few sentences or a little list. Don't work hard on this—the first thing that comes to your mind is the best thing. Jot it down and email to faeditor@gmail.com, or mail a note or postcard to FACA ATTN Jeanne Swope, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. Two ideas? Send them both! Please send your items before May 20.

Right now we have *Napa piiri* (Arctic Circle) at Rovaniemi and Grandma's *mökki*. Great contributions— and you can see we need you, too. It doesn't matter if what you remember is more impression than detail—that impression will inspire someone to look into the place. It's fine if you've never been to Finland—wishes encouraged.

Call Jeanne at (612) 827-6773 if you have questions.

In Memorium

Owens, Ronald L. "Ron" Age 70, of Maplewood, Retired 3M Sr. Project Engineer, passed away on April 1, 2014. Ron grew up on Lake Crystal, MN. He is survived by wife, Barbara Nikula-Owens; mother, Catherine; brother, Richard; children, Jeanette (Eric) Lahm, Michelle Owens-Eppler (Mike), James Owens; grandchildren, Ellizabeth, Keegan, & Noah Lahm, and Adelina & Ila Eppler. His memorial service took place on Monday, April 7.

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 _____

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April Program Recap

By *Janie Abola*

A large crowd gathered on April 18th to hear Daniel Karvonen's updated presentation on the origins of the Finns and the Finnish language.

Dan Karvonen is Senior Lecturer in Finnish at the University of Minnesota. Since childhood, Dan has been interested in genealogy; at age 10, he started interviewing older relatives and taking notes on his family history. A Finnish relative's advice to become an exchange student in Finland had great influence on the direction of his career and life. He has a BA in Finnish and Russian, and MA and PhD degrees in linguistics. His research interests are in linguistics, genetics, and genealogy.

The Finnish language is immediately noticeable as unlike other European languages, Dan said. "When I'm in a coffee shop speaking Finnish with friends, and people walk by, they often ask what language is that." Scholars noticed early that the Finnish language was related to Estonian, Sámi, and Hungarian (Uralic languages), but not to Swedish, Russian, or the other Indo-European (Germanic, Romance, Greek) languages spoken throughout Europe. Theories arose on the question of Finnish origins, ranging from Finnish via ancient Egypt and the pyramids as the source of all western culture (there is no connection), to an original location on the great bend of the Volga River in Russia (there is evidence in this area for early Finnic language, but not for people with Finnish DNA).

Recent advances in DNA and other fields suggest that the Finns have been in Finland for a very long time and are for the most part quite "European."

During the last ice age (24,000–18,000 BC), Finland was buried under a continental ice sheet. As the ice sheet melted, vegetation grew and animals moved northward; early people followed the game. Initially, Finland was largely underwater, but land in Finland gradually rose from the sea (Finland continues to rise to this day). Finland has been continuously inhabited since the last Ice Age. The current population did not derive from a single group; instead it derived from multiple waves of immigration from many directions, most heavily from the south.

Finland's relative isolation, however, has resulted in the Finnish population having some genetic differences from other European populations. Although Finnish DNA shares similarities with other European DNA, Finnish DNA is distinctive.

Also, famines probably caused population bottlenecks within Finland, resulting in some divergent DNA among Finns. For example, analysis of the Y chromosome DNA among Finnish men shows that the Y chromosome differs between eastern and western Finland.

A fairly new theory is that the earliest inhabitants of Finland spoke a non-Finnic language. The only remaining traces of this extinct language are seen in a few place names (linguists have found that place names often linger after language change). Some such names are Saimaa, Imatra, Koli, old words that do not have roots or meaning in Finnish or other neighboring languages.

According to this theory, the early Proto-Finnic language arrived in Finland via the south around 500 AD. A concentration of Finnic languages/dialects indicate that the Baltics are a source area (a principle in linguistics maintains that greatest diversity within a language is found in areas with the oldest habitation). An early form of Finnish spread in Finland through trade and the movement of people, supplanting previous language(s).

People's language changes through time, often for practical purposes. A less powerful group may begin to use the language of a more powerful group to obtain power, money, and jobs. Early people possibly spoke 3 or 4 other languages for purposes of trade.

What languages are related to Finnish? Finnish and Estonian are closely related; the Sami languages are related but less closely. Hungarian is a very distant relative. Interestingly, despite the political domination of Finland by Russia in the 19th and early 20th century, there is little Russian influence in the Finnish language.

It is impossible to provide a complete report on Dan's rich presentation. Fortunately, the program was recorded by Eric Jaakkola and is available at www.tiny.cc/finntalk
Direct link is <http://youtu.be/sA-YANuPwI4>

Welcome New Members!

**John and Freya Hanson
New Brighton, MN**

Tervetuloa!

Pieniä Paloja

- Serving at coffee time in April: Pam Rahkola, Phyllis Kiihn and Jeanne Swope. *Paljon kiitoksia!*
- Oulu's *Kärpät* (Weasels) won their sixth Finnish ice hockey championship on April 26 with a 1-0 overtime victory over Tampere's *Tappara* (Poleaxe). The northern club did things the hard way in a bruising series that went to a seventh and deciding game for the first time in Finnish hockey history.
- Hundreds of Finnish police officers put down weapons and other tools of their trade to take to the stage in song in Turku. A two-day celebration of police music culminated in the southwestern city with choral recitals and other forms of musical entertainment. In keeping with the cloak and dagger element of police work, organizers also promised "monastic harmonies, men in suits and dangerous situations."
- A historical first was reached when population data revealed that Finland now contains more speakers of foreign languages than it does Swedish speakers. Preliminary figures from Statistics Finland show that a slight surge in immigration boosted Finland's population by 3,800 people at the start of the year, bringing the number of speakers of foreign languages to 293,540, or 5.4 percent of the population. This is compared to 290,760 Swedish speakers, who make up 5.3 percent of the population. As of the end of March, the total size of Finland's population now stands at 5,455,068.
- This summer, sauna-rafts will get their second dedicated mooring pier in Tampere to meet the growing demand. "You could say Tampere's in the middle of a floating-sauna boom," says harbor chief Matti Joki. "This is a craze among the young." Joki adds that the sauna-and-boat combo allows Tampere's urbanites to make the most of the area's lakes in two ways at once. But the proliferation of the floating steam baths, which look like mini makeshift summer cottages, has been raising temperatures among some die-hard sauna traditionalists, who claim that Tampere's shorelines are being blighted.

Source: *Yle*

Additional Calendar Items from page 8

Tuesdays. Conversational Finnish group, St. Anthony Library, corner of Como and Carter Avenues., St. Paul, 4:00-5:25 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For information: Urho Rahkola, (651) 429-3319

Thursdays. The Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers meet every Thursday at the International Institute of Minnesota on Como Ave, St. Paul, across from the State Fairgrounds, 7:00 p.m. The group does not meet during holidays. 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

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

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 _____

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Email _____

Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708,
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next program.



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 to Aug. 17 Finland: Designed Environments. Minnesota Institute of Art, 2400 Third Ave S., Minneapolis, MN. Free. For more information: <http://new.artsmia.org/visit/> or (888) 642-2787

May 16 FACA May Program and Annual Meeting, 7:30 p.m., International Institute of Minnesota

May 16 Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's, 215 E Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis; 6:30 to 9 p.m. For more information: (612) 379-3018

May 17 Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Annual election of officers and at-large board members, awards and sharing of summer plans. Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. Driving directions and changes in meeting time and/or place: FGG web page: www.minnesotafinnish.org (select "Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota," then "Meeting Information")

May 23 Deadline for articles and calendar items for June *Utiset*

May 24 Opening FinnFest 2014 in Cokato, where the first Finnish immigrants settled 150 years ago. Events from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. See pages 3 and 5. More information: <http://www.cokatofinnam.org/>

May 28 Olli Hirvonen Trio. Finnish jazz guitarist and his group. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue S., Minneapolis; 7:00 p.m. For more information: (612) 721-6611

June 1 The Kaze Quartet, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pine City; 4:00 p.m.

June 14 The Kaze Quartet, the American Swedish Institute; 4:00 p.m.

June 27 to Aug. 2 37th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Hjemkomst Center, 202 1st Ave. N., Moorhead. Watch for more information: www.nordiccultureclubs.org/

July 27 to Aug. 2 SISU Finnish Language & Culture Seminar. One-week intensive Finnish course on the University of Minnesota Duluth campus. To inquire whether space is still available, contact: kaisa@eurekanet.com, 1 (740) 592-1157

Aug. 5 to 6 FinnFest 2014 Education Forum. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis. More information: www.finnfestusa2014.org

Aug. 7 FinnFest 2014 Genealogy Forum. Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis. More information: www.finnfestusa2014.org

Aug. 8 to 10 FinnFest 2014 Festival. Minneapolis. For more information: www.finnfestusa2014.org

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