



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

May/Toukokuu 2015

Connecting the Dots

Eero and Rosann Angeli

Imagine moving to the other side of the world, leaving all your traditions and customs behind you. You must embrace the new ways of your new country. You are told "What's past is past. You must look forward to the challenges of making a living for yourself on this side of the ocean."

But traces of the past do remain. There are bits of interesting information about events and customs that came with our ancestors from Finland that we, the Finnish-American descendants, still are aware. But we don't know the "whole story"; the meanings are so often trivialized or lost.

Eero and Rosann Angeli have put together a program through film, PowerPoint, demonstrations, hand-outs and dance to help you connect the dots for some very Finnish things, some you may already know; some may be an "ah-ha" for you. If you are from Finland, this will be a walk down memory lane, and you will nod your head in recognition.



Program In Brief

Connecting the Dots ***Eero and Rosann Angeli***

May 15, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
*For help finding a ride to the program:
call any of the board members*

Eero and Rosann Angeli met at Finnfest 2008 in Duluth, where he was performing with a Finnish Folk dance group. They teach Finnish folk dancing at many Finnish events. Eero is Sami, born in Inari, Finland, but grew up in Sweden, always returning to Finland in the summers. Rosann's grandparents came from Lohtaja, north of Oulu, to Michigan as miners and to Oulu, Wisconsin, as loggers. In Sweden, Eero was an electrician. He now works in electronics and is also a DJ, sharing music by Finland's best performers. Rosann is a nurse and on the Advisory Committee for Salolampi.

FACA 2014-2015 Board of Directors

President:
Gene Ollila
(612) 840-2932
olefin@att.net

Vice President/Program Chair:
Dennis Halme
(763) 208-3294
dhalme560@msn.com

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

Treasurer:
Janie Ahola
(651) 455-6152
janieahola@msn.com

Hospitality:
Richard Harju
(763) 784-9522
rjharju@yahoo.com

Membership:
John Rova
(612) 729-1585
jrova@millershanson.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: **Betsey Norgard, Dennis Halme, Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen, Urho Rahkola, Gene Ollila**

Membership/Mailing:
Urho and Pam Rahkola
rahkola.urho@comcast.net
(651) 429-3319

President's Message

By *Gene Ollila*



We are now into spring, and all the sights and sounds that go into spring abounded last week: beautiful weather and sun, buds starting to swell, our forsythia and scilla blooming very nicely, birds much in evidence. Two to three hours of bird-watching yielded 30-38 different species on a couple of outings. What a wonderful time of awakening of our primal senses and knowing that winter is over!

FACA too, shares this seasonal change. By the time you read this newsletter, the Festival of Nations will be over. According to my information, the Finnish Café first served food in 1939, but the Festival itself began in 1932. So, we are upholding a long tradition of having Finns visible to all the other cultures. We want to keep a strong presence at the Festival and need to involve “younger” people to share in this effort. How to do this is a challenge. We have had a good turnout of volunteers so far, and the board will reevaluate our participation going forward at the next board meeting.

Besides an interesting program, in May we will have our brief Annual Meeting and election of officers and will wrap up the year. The *Tervetuloa* sign donated by Eleanor Kraker (mounted on a base made by my cousin, Ray Renfors, who lives in Chisholm) will be up for the first time. We need a quorum of attendees at the meeting, so please make an effort to attend. If you need a ride, please call one of the board members on the list to the left of this letter, and we can get you there.

There are other celebrations in which you may be interested. One is the 38th annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Moorhead, June 26-27; see the article on page 5. The next Finnfest in Buffalo, NY, on October 9-12 promises to be a grand one; the website is finnfestusa.org/buffalo2015.html. There is also an active Facebook page. To follow this page, “like” FinnFest USA FinnFest USA 2015 Buffalo, NY. At our last program, Honorary Consul Marianne Wargelin asked if there would be sufficient interest to organize a bus trip to Buffalo. If interested, please call Marianne at (612) 374-2718 to help assess interest in a bus. I suggested to Marianne last summer that the rose-breasted grosbeak be the Festival's Toika bird, and I believe this will be the case. This would be a fun trip!

Kiitos paljon!



Board Notes *By Ruth Erkkila*



L-R: Front: John Rova, Ruth Erkkila, Janie Ahola, Back: Gene Ollila, Dennis Halme, Richard Harju.

The meeting of the FACA Board was called to order by president Gene Ollila at 6:30 p.m., April 14, at Baker's Square in St. Paul. Present were: Gene Ollila, Dennis Halme, Janie Ahola, Richard Harju, John Rova and Bud Berry. Not present: Ruth Erkkila (Dennis took notes.)

Minutes of the March board meeting were approved. Treasurer Janie Ahola gave the treasurer's report. She has filed appropriate forms to maintain FACA's nonprofit status with the State.

Other board members reported as follows: vice president Dennis Halme said Friday's program speaker, Jim Pellman, is ready. The May program will feature Rosann and Eero Angeli. Hospitality chair Richard Harju reported on the number of volunteers for the Festival of Nations, including Baking Day April 25, the Culture Booth and the Finnish Cafe. More volunteers are needed for the days of the Festival, April 30 - May 3. Membership chair John Rova reported on the Culture Booth, developed around the theme International Art.

The following new business was discussed:

Melanie Brooks, who performed with her musical group at a FACA program last year and is now studying in Finland, asked if FACA members would be interesting in hosting a luncheon or dinner for a group of her fellow musicians at the Sibelius Academy when they visit Minneapolis later this year.

Gene presented a proposed contract he has drawn up for Kathryn Hill, manager of the Finnish Cafe at the Festival of Nations. Board members expressed approval.

There was some discussion of defining the responsibilities of FACA Board members. Janie has a large collection of FACA documents in her home without enough space to store them and has several offers of help to sort documents and save only the important ones.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. Next board meeting will be May 12, 2015, 6:30 p.m. at Bakers Square, St. Paul.

Thank You, Festival of Nations Volunteers!

By Richard Harju

I am writing this before the Festival, but I have a good feeling that it will be a big success. Many dedicated people, FACA members and friends took the challenge and volunteered for the Finnish events. It says something about *sisu*. It was gratifying to me to have so many folks volunteering and working to obtain volunteers. They all deserve a big heartfelt thank you. If there were any short comings, they were not due to a lack of effort.

Karlajan Piirakkas for Sale at May FACA Program

Those tasty little rice-filled Karelian pies will be for sale at the May program as a fundraiser for FACA. Made during Baking Day but not offered for sale at Festival of Nations, the traditional (and currently very popular in Finland) treat will be frozen and packaged, ready for you to top with your own egg-butter or the sauce of your choice (not included). Suggested donation prices are 3 for \$5, 6 for \$8, or 12 for \$15 while the supply lasts. The egg-butter consists of two parts mashed hard-boiled egg to one part softened butter (but can be varied according to own personal preference), seasoned with a little salt and pepper. You could add some dried parsley for a little color/extra flavor. We recommend heating the *piirakkas* in a covered frying pan with a little butter, just to crisp up the bottom crust a bit.



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

Uunijuusto Adventure

By Beth Jarvis, et al

For a number of years I've been thinking of trying to find colostrum milk so I could make *uunijuusto* (baked cheese). Colostrum milk



is the milk mammals produce the first few days after giving birth. This nutrient-rich milk contains antibodies and all sorts of good stuff the baby needs. (The milk is also called "beestings" in Beatrice Ojakangas' book, *The Finnish Cookbook*. Second and third day colostrum is generally used as calves need the first day milk most.)

Mom would make it periodically at home on our dairy farm. Our cows were sold in the late 1960s, so it had been over twenty years since I'd had it. Then, on a trip to Finland in 2005, it was offered twice!

First, it was served at a fancy buffet lunch near Helsinki. My cousin pointed it out to me as "very traditional." On that same trip, a farmer cousin's wife served it when I visited their farm near Oulu. (I gather this is something she whips up for guests as an American cousin said they'd had it when visiting that same farm.)

So, in early March I went on-line looking at sources of raw milk and hopefully colostrum. I found a source southwest of New Prague. I emailed Rick, the farmer, and learned he expected to have a few cows coming fresh (giving birth) soon and would sell some. I chatted about the colostrum with a few friends at the March FACA program. Jeanne Swope and Kaarina Kotavuori expressed interest in getting some and for a road trip to New Prague.

So after exchanging emails with Rick, I learned that he would have several gallons ready the weekend of 3/29. He charges \$10 per gallon; I bought the six cups I needed for the recipe. Jeanne and Kaarina bought similar amounts, and Jeanne got some organic eggs as well.

The trip took a bit over an hour from Jeanne's in south Minneapolis. It was a nice day with good weather. We were a bit surprised to see the farmland around New Prague covered by a new coat of snow.

Rick said many of his customers were body-builders wanting a high-calorie nutritional supplement. He said his wife was very interested in trying the cheese recipe.

Next day, all participants got to work on our *uunijuusto*. We each had a plentiful supply with a lovely brown crust. It tasted mild and a little sweet (from the sugar and cinnamon topping). Jeanne's Americanized descendants were frightened by the word "colostrum." A friend of mine who was raised on a farm refused to touch it. He'd been taught the colostrum was strictly for calves only.

Comments from the three cheese makers:

Beth: Making it scratched the itch to do it.

Kaarina: Now I want to try squeaky cheese!

Jeanne: For my next body-builder treat, chocolate.

If you'd like to try making the cheese, Rick said it was okay to give out his email. He takes orders and makes appointments by email, which he checks several times per day. He freezes it. ryndaville@gmail.com

Baked Cheese from *The Finnish Cookbook* by Beatrice Ojakangas

6 cups 2nd or 3rd day milk

1 tsp salt

Sugar and cinnamon

Combine the milk and salt and pour into a 2-quart casserole. Bake in a moderately slow oven (325 degrees) for 30 minutes, then sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon and return to the oven. Bake for another 30 minutes or until the milk has set. Test by inserting a table knife into the center of the cheese; if it comes out clean, the cheese is done. Serve hot or cold.

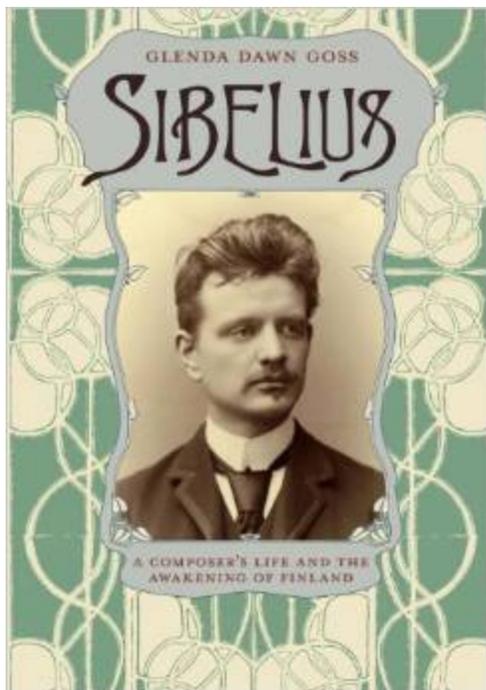


Jeanne takes delivery of milk.

Sibelius Book Available for Purchase

By *Betsy Norgard*

Sibelius: A Composer's Life and the Awakening of Finland, the 2009 biography of composer Jean Sibelius written by Sibelius scholar and music historian Glenda Dawn Goss has been called "the definitive biography of this creative legend for many years to come." Copies of the book, in both cloth cover and paperback, are currently available for purchase from Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities (FFTC).



The cost of the book is \$60 for hardcover and \$35 for paperback, tax included. They can be picked up from Marianne Wargelin, Honorary Consul of Finland, at 2429 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis. Please call her at (612) 374-2718 to arrange a time or to make other arrangements. Cash and checks made out to Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities are accepted.

Goss begins the story of Sibelius by describing the political and cultural atmosphere of late-19th-century Finland, in a country that had known no other government at the time Sibelius was born than several hundred years under the Swedish crown followed by half a century under the Russian Empire. She believes that the lively intellectual, social, and cultural movement in which Sibelius played a central role has to be understood in order to truly understand the music he composed in his lifetime--and the creative silence that enveloped him during his last thirty years.

While Sibelius has been critically acclaimed for its scholarship and information, it is a very readable book that draws the reader into the exhilarating times of what has been called the "golden age" of Finland. Now is the perfect time to read Goss' book, learning about the beloved composer during the 150th anniversary of the year of his birth, as well as gaining insight and understanding of the emergence of Finland as a new nation just as the 100th anniversary of its independence in 2017 approaches. A limited quantity of books is available.

Hjemkomst Festival and Midwest Viking Festival, June 26 - 27

The Red River Finns invite members of FACA to the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival and Midwest Viking Festival, June 26-27, in Moorhead. When Finland was the featured country in 2009, members of FACA attended the Festival and volunteered to sell desserts at the festival snack bar. We appreciated your assistance and are giving you this opportunity again this year when Finland is the featured country. By volunteering, you will get free admission to the festival.

In celebration of Jean Sibelius' 150th birthday anniversary, the Park Rapids Area Community Band, directed by Dr. Russell Pesola, will perform music of Sibelius on Saturday afternoon, June 27. The singing group Saana and the brass band *Ameriikan Poijat* will participate in the concert, as well as perform their programs during the Festival. Students from Soiva International Music Camp, held at Concordia College in Moorhead the same week as the Festival, will perform each day. Other Scandinavian performers will be on the program as well as Viking Age activities outdoors. There will be a wide variety of foods available. To volunteer, contact Ellen Liddle, ellen.liddle@yahoo.com or (701) 281-9303. For festival information visit nordiccultureclubs.org/.

In Memoriam

George Elmer Valo was born on March 13, 1921, and passed away on March 6, 2015, at the age of 93. He attended FACA programs and events up till his last month. He greatly enjoyed his Finnish-American heritage. George will always be remembered by his son Byron, daughters Becky and Jane, daughter- and sons-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and other relatives and friends.

April Program Recap

By *Dennis Halme*

The topic of the April program was the consumer cooperatives of the upper Midwest as exemplified by organizations in northwestern Wisconsin, specifically Douglas county. Jim Pellman, the presenter, is a long-time resident in Maple, Wisconsin. He is a writer and local historian, with degrees in psychology and fine arts. He has researched his topic as a local resident with an interest in the social history of his own and nearby communities. He is a fourth generation Finnish American, with roots in Lappajärvi, Finland.

Jim began with a general history of the Brule area from about 1890 on. The first Finnish immigrants came to the area in the early 1890s and settled in the forests, which were being logged out at that time. They were mainly conservative, religious and not particularly political. They began farming as well as working in the logging industry. Jim delineated on PowerPoint the areas in Douglas and Bayfield counties where the population had mainly been Finnish immigrants.

The cooperative movement developed in these communities as an outgrowth of labor movement activities brought to the area after 1900 new residents who had left the iron mines after being blackballed for union activities. After building halls in such places as Waino, north of Brule, many of the people became members of the Finnish division of the American Socialist party and later, after the split between the the socialists and communists following the Russian revolution, many had sympathy for or joined the American Communist party. The first cooperatives were organized by these "leftist" groups. This was in the period between 1920 and 1932.

There were co-op stores in most of the Finnish communities of the northern Midwest. However, due to misgivings at the attempt of the Communist Party to compel the Finnish cooperatives to send contributions to the Party, the movement was split, and the majority of co-ops cut any ties to the Communist Party by 1932. Jim mentioned that this was when product labels, which had once sported the hammer and sickle, now had a plain red star. In Brule, the non-party-affiliated co-op built a park on the Brule river where dances, sporting events and educational activities were held.

The cooperative stores thrived for many decades and many people joined them, even religious



people. They were familiar sights in the towns and countryside. I remember going to the co-op with my grandmother in Ontonagon, Michigan, where one could buy good cinnamon toast, hardtack and cardamon bread, as well as general groceries. They have mostly ceased to operate due to many changes in society, marketing, population changes (especially loss in rural areas), etc. This was an interesting and informative talk, and many questions and conversations with Jim followed.



National Sauna Day in Embarrass June 6

By *Marlin Bjornrud*

Sisu Heritage, Inc. of Embarrass will sponsor a "National Sauna Day" on Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This will be a simple celebration of saunas! The event will take place at the Nelimark Homestead grounds, across from the Timber Hall in Embarrass.

Activities during the day will include live music by Steven Tedman, a bus tour of saunas in the area, games, raffles, food and sitting around telling "sauna stories." The Nelimark Museum and Gift Shop will be open, featuring a sauna exhibit. Two log saunas are located at the Nelimark homestead and will be open for viewing. For further details, call (218) 984-3012.

Events Calendar

May 15 FACA program. International Institute of Minnesota, 7:30 p.m. Entertaining program, annual meeting, and *karjalan piirakoita* for sale.

May 16 Finnish Genealogy Group-MN, 9:30 a.m. Annual elections and sharing of summer plans. Driving directions or changes/cancellations: minnesotafinnish.org; click on left menu, Finnish Genealogy, then Meeting Information

May 16 Finnish Culture through Movies group. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. 12:30 p.m. *Röllli ja kultainen avain / Röllli and the Golden Key*.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=W8zio5JbpXA
More information: minnesotafinnish.org; click on Suomi-koulu, then Groups, then Finnish Culture through Movies or call (651) 428-3155.

May 17-23 Spring Adult Week, Salolampi Finnish Language Village. More information: salolampi.org/village/adultprograms.html

May 22 Deadline for calendar items and new for the June *Utiset*. Submit to facaeditor@gmail.com by midnight.

June 6 National Sauna Day. Nelimark Homestead, Embarrass, 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. See page 6.

June 12-13 Nisswa Stämman, Nisswa. Scandinavian Folk Music Festival. More information: <http://www.nisswastamman.org/>

June 20-21 Midsummer. Lake Vermilion Culture Center, Tower. More information: vermilionculturalcenter.org/

June 26-27 38th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival and Midwest Viking Festival. Moorhead. See page 5. More information: <http://www.nordiccultureclubs.org/>

June 26-28 Finn Grand Fest, Toronto, Ontario. For information: <http://finnfestival2015.com/>

Oct. 9-12 FinnFest USA 2015, Buffalo, NY. The hotel room block for FinnFest USA 2015 is now available! See the basic outline of the festival's schedule and a link to the reservation system at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo at <http://www.finnfestusa.org/buffalo2015/>. The annual national festival of Finnish and Finnish-American culture is coming to Buffalo, NY! Inspired by the international celebration of the 150th Jubilee year of Finnish composer Jean Sibelius and the 75th anniversary of Buffalo's beloved landmark Kleinhans Music Hall, designed by Finnish architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen, FinnFest USA 2015 promises an exciting weekend for Buffalo locals and national visitors alike! FinnFest USA 2015 is a weekend full of classical and folk music, art, dancing, lectures, seminars and panels, shopping and food. We welcome you to join us and be "Finnspired!" For information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1495908427353652/>

Thursdays. Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers. St. Sahag Armenian Church, 203 N. Howell St., St. Paul, 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. Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave. SE, Minneapolis. For more information or to check on meeting day/time: karvo001@umn.edu

Speeding Ticket in Finland

A Finnish businessman was recently fined 54,024 euros (about \$58,000) for a speeding violation. He reacted furiously on Facebook, threatening to leave Finland and saying, "The way things are done here makes no sense. For what and for whom does this society exist? It is hard to say."

He has not received much public sympathy. Finland and the other Nordic countries practice not only progressive taxation but also some progressive fining. Speeding fines are based on income, and this is seen as appropriate. A similar speeding ticket would cost someone earning about 50,000 euros a year (\$54,000) about 345 euros (\$370). "It is an old system," said Pasi Kempainen, chief superintendent at the National Police Board, in an article in the *New York Times Helsinki Journal*. "It may lead to high fines, but only for people who can afford it."

The individual in the current news story had a big ticket previously; he was fined \$83,769 in 2013. That fine was reduced on appeal to 5,346 euros. Perhaps that was not a learning experience.

From the *New York Times Helsinki Journal*

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

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Pieniä Paloja

- Serving a fine spring-themed coffee table for April were Marlene Banttari., Barbara Besonen, and Kathy Chambless. *Paljon kiitoksia!*
- On Sunday April 26 in Helsinki, a group of Nepalese people began collecting Finnish Red Cross donations to help victims of the massive earthquake that devastated Nepal on Saturday. The Finnish Red Cross also prepared to send aid teams to Nepal. As of this date, 20 Finnish citizens in Nepal had not been located, and were asked to report in via Facebook, the most readily available means of communication. *YLE*
- Finns are suffering from spring allergies. Massive amounts of dust particles from the streets are a recurring problem in Finland in the springtime because sand and studded tires are used to reduce slippery conditions in the winter. The dry and windy weather so far this spring means that dust emissions are at a record high throughout the country. Also, the dust particles in the air contain several hazardous components, like exhaust gas, asphalt, rubber dust and even metal. Asthma is the most common respiratory disease in Finland, affecting an estimated ten percent of the population. *Helsinki Times*
- In the April parliamentary elections, the Center Party was the one and only winner in terms of gaining seats. The Social Democratic Party, in turn, was the biggest loser as its vote and seat share fell more than those of any other party. SDP and the Finns Party were in a close race for second place. *YLE*
- Have you ridden on a Finnish escalator or elevator lately? Kone is pleased with its performance in North America. The company improved several of its key performance indicators between January and March. The value of new orders received by Kone in the first quarter breached the two billion euros mark for the first time in its history. The phenomenon is evident particularly in Asia but also in North America, where urban construction has picked up largely due to the reluctance of young couples to start a family in the suburbs. The depreciation of the euro only has a minimal effect on manufacturing costs because lifts and escalators are typically manufactured in destination countries. *Helsinki Times*