



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

October/Lokakuu 2012

The Tall Ships of Åland that Sailed the World Betsey Norgard

For a short period of time, the last remaining fleet of majestic square-rigged merchant ships that sailed the world flew the Finnish flag and hailed from the port of Mariehamn (Maarianhamina), in the Åland Islands. Åland, “the land belonging to the sea,” is an archipelago of 6,500 islands between Sweden and Finland where the sea has shaped a society of fishermen, traders, merchant seamen, ship owners, and now entrepreneurs who ferry tourists on the ever-larger luxurious ships that sail the Baltic and beyond.

Betsey Norgard, a second-generation Ålander and descendant of sea captains and lighthouse keepers, will illustrate the history and tell the story of the remarkable 1920s and '30s when Åland's square-rigged sailing ships defied all odds and gained international acclaim, continuing to win the “grain races” on the trade routes to Europe, South America, and Australia. Life aboard was adventurous, risky, and rewarding for the men (and very few women) who sailed the seas.



Betsey studied Scandinavian Languages and Literature at the University of Minnesota and spent a Fulbright year in Finland, studying literature at Åbo Akademi and living in the Åland Islands, where she interviewed and wrote about Åland authors. She also participated in a Ministry of Education program to study Swedish-speaking language and culture in Finland.

Program In Brief

Betsey Norgard
Tall Ships
Friday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

She has been active in the Twin Cities Finnish community as president of the Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities Chapter, secretary-treasurer of the Minneapolis Kuopio Partnership committee, and a member (along with her husband, Al) of Kisarit Folkdancers and *Koivun Kaiku* kantele ensemble.

FACA 2012-2013 Board of Directors

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Kara Middleton
(952) 237-5857
km7916@yahoo.com

Vice President/Program Chair:

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Richard Harju
(612) 719-4965
rjharju@yahoo.com

FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:

Mary Belanger
(218) 839-1566
facaeditor@gmail.com

Graphic Design:

Beth Jarvis
(763) 536-9561
bethjarvi@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Kara Middleton, Jeanne Swope, Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen, Erin Belanger, Urho Rahkola, Bud Berry

Membership/Mailing:

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

President's Message

By Kara Middleton

Thanks to all of you who joined us for our September program. Susan Harstad gave us an entertaining and informative look at some of the current trend setters in Finnish design and their iconic work. She also provided little-known facts about some of the most famous elements of Finnish design. For example, it was fascinating to learn the true inspiration behind the shape of the Alvar Aalto vases, candle holders, and small dishes that many of us know so well. Did Aalto draw his inspiration from the shape of one of Finland's 187,888 lakes? It sounds plausible, but according to Susan, no. If you were not present at the program and are curious to know the answer, you will have to ask someone who was there. I don't want to ruin the mystery! Thank you, Susan, for educating us.



In September I had the opportunity to attend Adult Week at the Salolampi Finnish Language Village in Bemidji. It was my first time there as a villager and I was impressed and inspired by the experience. I loved the north woods location, beautiful cabins and traditional Finnish architecture. The curriculum is designed to immerse villagers in both Finnish language and culture as much as possible. Classes were taught at five different levels, from beginner to advanced, so each villager was able to find instruction that suited her capabilities. In my class we worked on simple, useful sentences and conjugated regular verbs. To help us learn the names of countries, colors, and other vocabulary, we played memory games with flashcards. I think this was especially helpful in committing the Finnish words to memory because a game creates incentive for paying closer attention. And of course it was also fun! Our days were well-planned and contained a manageable amount of classroom instruction as well as cultural education time, recreation time, and time for making friends over *kahvi* and *pulla*. The friendly kitchen staff also did an excellent job. In addition to baking great *pulla*, they served us three very nice meals every day, often with Finnish foods such as *kurkkusalaatti* (cucumber salad), *peruna* (potatoes), and *ruisleipä* (rye bread). On many evenings the *rantas sauna* was lit and I enjoyed a candle-lit sauna with other villagers.

It felt significant to me to be at Salolampi because I know that it is a deeply meaningful place to so many people. Many people in Minnesota's Finnish community have contributed a great deal to Salolampi—first to building the village, and since then, to growing and maintaining it through both their financial contributions and their volunteer work. Now that I have experienced Salolampi, I can understand why so many people have put their hearts into it. It is a very important way of keeping Finnish language, culture and traditions alive for subsequent generations. If you are not yet involved with Salolampi in any way, I encourage you to learn more about it.

I also encourage you to join us this month for Betsey Norgard's talk about the tall ships of the Åland Islands. As always, we will enjoy coffee and treats afterward. *Nähdään siellä!*

Obituary

Ernest "Ernie" Eino Banttari
(August 2, 1932 - October 1, 2012)



We extend our heartfelt condolences to FACA member Marlene (Salmela) Banttari on the passing of her husband of 47 years, Ernest "Ernie" Eino Banttari. Ernie passed away on October 1, 2012 with Marlene at his side.

He spent his youth in Hibbing, MN where he attended junior college followed by undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota. In June 1965, he married Marlene Salmela prior to a sabbatical in Finland and the Netherlands.

Ernie spent a 33-year career in the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, as a teacher, graduate student advisor, Director of Graduate Studies, and research in plant virology. Among his other interests were propagation of Minnesota winter-hardy blueberries, which in cooperation with the Department of Horticultural Science, introduced two varieties to the University of Kuopio, Finland.

He enjoyed hunting, canoe trips, wood-turning and their log cabin at Ely, Finnish language and culture. Ernie and Marlene were founding members of FACA and, over the years, Ernie served several times on the board. He was last elected to the board in May 2001 and served as vice president in 2001-02 and as president in 2002-03. For his numerous contributions to FACA and the Twin Cities Finnish Community, he received the Sauna Bucket Award in 2004. Ernie was a dear friend of many in the Twin Cities Finnish community and will be missed greatly. Services have been held. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts will be directed by the family to the Salolampi Foundation, note scholarships; the University of Minnesota Foundation, Plant Pathology on the memo line or a charity of choice.

Salolampi Scholarships Really Help!

On Tue., Nov. 13, Wed., Nov. 14, and Thurs., Nov. 15, Phonathon volunteers will be calling from the Lutheran Community Foundation phones and from their home phones. It is fun to visit with fellow Finnish donors and raise scholarship dollars—all in the same evening—while calling from phones in the Thrivent Financial building in downtown Minneapolis. Last year a record-breaking number of volunteers chose to make calls from their homes.

Currently every Salolampi villager receives scholarship assistance to reduce the real cost of attendance. For example, a one week villager, ages 7-11, will have their tuition reduced a minimum of \$290. —with the possibility of further tuition reduction through 10 more available scholarships (depending on eligibility). All villagers should check to see if they qualify for these scholarships.

Also any child under the age of 18 may attend the multi-generational Family Week (five days) for \$155. with scholarship support (based on early registration). A bargain!

Our hard-working callers make these savings possible. The generosity of our Finnish community is truly outstanding and appreciated.

Please encourage any Finnish American youth or anyone who is interested in the Finnish language and culture to take advantage of the Salolampi scholarship program and attend the village for one week or four weeks!

For more information on scholarships, the October issue of the *Salolammen Sanomat* outlines the 2013 summer schedule, fees, and scholarships in detail. Concordia Language Village early registration receives the 2012 tuition rates until 12/12/12.

If you can call from home or the Thrivent location, please contact Linda Warpula Davis (763) 420-3237, ldavismn@hotmail.com or Ruthann Swanson (612) 788-3905 Ruthann@ars-services.com. *Kiitos.*

FACA Salolampi Scholarships Available

FACA offers scholarships of \$100 to Exploration Session Villagers and \$200 to Youth Immersion Villagers who are children or relatives of a FACA member. Request information and application from Kathleen Jackson, 3225 Century Ave. S., Woodbury, MN 55125; (651)739-3102. Application deadline is March 11, 2013.

Joulu-Magical Finnish Christmas

The Finnish community invites you to the first community-wide Twin Cities celebration of Christmas in the Finnish tradition. Celebrate *Joulu* on Saturday, December 15, at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, from noon to 5 p.m.

- *Suomi-koulu* children's program with songs, crafts, and games—fun for kids of all ages
- *Kanneimmat Joululaulut* (Finnish Christmas carols) service—the beloved traditional service of new and old Finnish Christmas carols
- *Tiernapojat* performance—Wendy Knox directs professional musicians in the traditional Starboys Procession of the holiday season
- Christmas buffet, catered by Soile Anderson/Deco Catering, the revised version of traditional *Pikkujoulu*. (See upcoming November newsletter for info and cost.)
- Wreath design contest—Enter your hand-crafted, creative “Magical Finnish Christmas” wreath for judging and to take home again with you.
- Finnish Christmas movies, including *Joulutarina*, shown throughout the day
- *Joulutori*/Christmas Marketplace—a great place for Christmas shopping!

We hope you will join us for this festive, community-wide activity that is sure to attract many people. Celebrate *Joulu* in the Finnish tradition. Watch for more details in the November newsletter.

Announcing a Wreath Design Competition!

What? Good Design Is Forever: Christmas Wreath Design Competition. Theme is “Magical Finnish Christmas” Materials: Anything you can think of! Maximum size: 4ft x 4ft.

When? Saturday, December 15, 2012, Registration deadline: December 1, 2012 .

Where? Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Noon to 5 p.m.

Who? The contest is open to individuals and groups

Why? To get into the Finnish Christmas spirit and to have fun designing! We encourage the young and the old to participate!

Prizes? Ribbons will be awarded (as selected by the jury) to first, second, and third place entries.

People's Choice Award (as voted by the people attending the event) will be awarded to first, second, and third place entries.

Sell your Finnish gifts in the Joulutori!

Join vendors at “*Joulu*—Magical Finnish Christmas,” the first community-wide celebration of Finnish Christmas traditions in the Twin Cities.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012
Christ Church Lutheran
Noon to 5 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per table (8 ft.), plus 10% of profit earned; or \$10 for a shared table, plus 10% profit.

To reserve a table: Contact Betsey Norgard by November 15 at norgard@winternet.com or (651) 270-9784.

Upcoming Finnish Culture Through Movies

October 14 *Tuntematon Sotilas*
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unknown_Soldier_\(1985_film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Unknown_Soldier_(1985_film))

November 11 *Veijarit*
www.bronsonclub.com/veijarit/

December 9 *Joulutarina*
www.joulutarina.fi/en/tuotannot/joulutarina/

January 13 *Vares – Sukekanauhakäärme*
http://www.solarfilms.com/elokuvat/kaikki/sukekanauhakaarme/en_GB/gartersnake/

Movies begin at 6:00 p.m., at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis. For more information contact Movie group page or (651) 428-3155.



Welcome New Members!

Darelyn and Matti Huupponen of
Minneapolis
Kendra L. Kauppi of Lauderdale

Tervetuloa!

University of Minnesota Den Svenska Klubben presents:

A Germanic-Language (and Finnish) Film Series Movies will be shown at 4:00 p.m., in Folwell Hall, located at 9 Pleasant Street SE, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus, Room 32. BYO snacks!

- 9/19 *Evil/Ondskan*, Sweden, 113 min (2003)
9/28 *Adam's Apples/ Adams Æbler*, Denmark, 94 min (2005)
10/5 *Rammbock: Berlin Undead*, Germany, 61 min (2010)
10/12 *Frostbitten/Frostbite*, Sweden, 98 min (2006)
10/19 *Troll Hunter/Trolljegeren*, Norway, 103 min (2010)
10/26 *Dead Snow/Død Snø*, Norway, 91 min (2009)
11/2 *Let the Right One In/Låt Den Rätte Komma In*, Sweden, 115 min (2008)
11/9 *The Green Butchers/De Grønne Slagtere*, Denmark, 100 min (2003)
11/16 *Noi The Albino/Nói Albínoi*, Iceland, 82 min (2003)
11/21 *Patrik, Age 1.5*, Sweden, 103 min (2008)
11/30 *Saint Nick/Sint*, Netherlands, 85 min (2010)
12/7 *Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale*, Finland, 84 min (2010)

Please note that some of these films contain explicit language, violence & sexual content)

Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale. This one is not for kids: Jalmari Helander's *Rare Exports* turns the concept of the Christmas film – and of Christmas itself – on its head.



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.

Finland's Contribution of Guerilla Warfare

Did you know that Finns coined the term “Molotov cocktail” so popular with street fighters these days? First use of the “cocktail” was during the Spanish Civil War in 1936-39, but the Finns gave it the name and mass-produced them.



During the Winter War, the Russians were cluster-bombing Finland with what Finns called “Molotov bread baskets”. Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs, Vyacheslav Molotov, claimed the Finns were starving and the Soviets were sending bread.

The Finns weren't starving, though they were quite short on anti-tank guns. So, the "Molotov cocktail" was the Finns' response – "a drink to go with the food". The Finnish alcohol monopoly Alko designed the incendiary weapon to use against the Soviet tanks. Molotov cocktails were eventually mass-produced by the Alko corporation at its Rajamäki distillery and bundled with matches to light them. Production totaled 450,000 during the Winter War. (Molotov hated the name, by the way.)

The original design of the Molotov cocktail was a mixture of ethanol, tar and gasoline in a 750 millilitres (0.79 US qt) bottle. The bottle had two long pyrotechnic storm matches attached to either side. Before use, one or both of the matches was lit; when the bottle broke on impact, the mixture ignited. Storm matches were found to be safer to use than a burning rag on the mouth of the bottle.

The gasoline mixture was later modified to make it stickier and a vial of chemicals was used as an igniter in place of matches. Leaving the bottles one-third empty was also found to improve breakage when hand or sling-tossed against Russian tanks. The preferred target area was the rear deck of the tanks where the burning gasoline could get at the tanks' cooling grills and ignite gas, hydraulic fluids and ammunition in the tanks.

(Information extracted from Wikipedia.)

September Program Recap

By *Jeanne Swope*

At our first program of the fall, Susan Harstad talked about activities in Helsinki this year celebrating the city's status as World Design Capital Helsinki 2012.

Susan Harstad holds degrees in art history and art education from St. Thomas. She has been an instructor at Salolampi since 1990 and is now director of Salolampi adult programs. She works at the design store Finnstyle in Minneapolis and is also skilled in traditional Finnish handicrafts. Her enthusiasm for Finnish design history was evident as she narrated a slide show of beautiful products and settings.

Helsinki Cathedral served as a giant screen for a light show to kick off the year. Lights were projected on the big white church, turning it to patterns of brilliant color. In the nearby Design District, where numerous workshops, shops, and galleries showcase Finnish artistry, an open pavilion designed by Aalto University students was built for many summer shows and receptions. For example, in one show, models in Marimekko fashions waded across a watery floor to demonstrate the connection between fashion and nature.

Finnish nature has inspired Finnish design. Susan talked about the companies and artists who brought Finnish design to world attention during the past 80 years—Arabia, Iittala. Kaj Franck, Alvar Aalto, among others. 1951 and 1952 were pivotal years, when most awards at the prestige competition, the Milan Triennale, went to Finnish designers (the “Milan Miracle”), and the Helsinki Olympics in 1952 where the spare, bright structures of Finnish architects intrigued visitors and world press.

Marimekko also started in 1951, and has continued to capture fashion imagination through the years. Recently, a Finnish Miss Universe contestant chose a lively dress in the famous unikko Marimekko fabric (the large poppy print) in blue as her “national costume.”

Susan showed examples of notable Finnish designers in many fields: Harri Koskinen and his design of the current Finlandia vodka bottle; Timo Sarpaneva, one of the design winners in Milan, who worked in metal, pottery, and glass for Iittala; at Marimekko, Maija Isola, premier designer and one of the company's first moving spirits, and Maija Louekari, a bright young designer at the company today; the intriguing bird artists of Iittala—the great Oiva Toikka and now Anu Penttinen. Susan also showed slides of Secto lighting fixtures—pendants fashioned from slender birch slats with light glowing through the interstices. This article does not take account of all the beautiful, nature-inspired art—

generally art produced as useful objects—that Susan showed us.

Susan also brought many items from her personal collection for us to examine and enjoy as we chatted with her after the presentation.



Paavo Taipale, Marlene Banttari



Lara Niskanen, Susan Harstad



Susan Harstad, Kara Middleton



Lu Zibell, Florence and George Marks



Marilyn Mileisnic and Judy Mikkola

Calendar-continued from pg. 8

Feb. 23 *Software Tools.* Learn what various software programs are and how you might use them. Elaine Barton will coordinate. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15.

March 23 *Back to Basics.* Joan Dwyer will discuss the how-tos of genealogy research. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15.

April 27 *Naming Conventions.* Calvin Tormanen will discuss surnames and how they were selected and changed over the years. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15.

May 18 Annual officer elections and sharing of summer plans. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Church.

Conversational Finnish Class

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

St. Anthony Library

Corner of Como and Carter Ave.

St. Paul

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please call

Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

Pieniä Paloja

- The board provided refreshments at the September program, newly-elected Richard Harju, Bud Berry, Edie Boos, Glen Bay, Kara Middleton and Jane Olson. *Kiitos!*
- Rovio's new game *Bad Piggies* skyrocketed on download lists last month. The heroes of the new game are the antagonists of the *Angry Birds* games.
- Many streets in the centre of Helsinki were closed to car traffic one recent Saturday, as Car Free Day, took place as part of European Mobility Week. The day was also marked by reduced public transport fares.
- Finland Festivals have chosen the Tampere Jazz Happening as their "Festival of the Year in 2012." The Jazz Happening will take place between November 1st and 4th.
- According to the most recent census in Russia, the number of people who speak Finnish has declined by one-fourth. The number of people who can speak Karelian has collapsed to half of what it was.
- Andrei Gorškov or Ondrei, is the first rap artist who performs in Karelian. He also acts in the National Theatre in Petrozavodsk, where performances are in Finnish, Karelian, and Russian.
- The overwhelming majority of those who have moved from Finland to Greece say that they have done so to be with someone that they love.
- What do people generally buy in connection with their border-crossing shopping trips? The Finns bring from Sweden smokeless tobacco or snus, reindeer meat, drinks such as carbonated soft drinks, juices, sparkling waters, mild beers, and wines. The Swedes, in turn, come to Finland to buy rye bread, sausages, convenience foods, eggs, medium-strength beers and other alcoholic beverages available in grocery stores.

FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight 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 _____



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

Oct 5-14 The 25th Annual Leif Eriksson International Festival to build a cultural bridge among all Nordic countries and the United States.

mindekirken.net/LEIF/2012_LEIF_Final_Pub.pdf

Oct. 19 FACA Program

Oct 19 Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's in Minneapolis. Music from 6:30–8:45 p.m., \$4 cover charge. Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis.

Oct 24 ASI Forum: The Lapp Kings's Daughter: A Family's Journey Through Finland's Wars 6:30–7:30 p.m., American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis. Info: asimn.org

Oct. 26 *Utiset* deadline., to facaeditor@gmail.com

Nov 8–11 Finnfest, Tucson, AZ, www.2012finnfestusa.org

Nov. 13-15 Salolampi Scholarship Phonathon.

Nov. 16 FACA program.

Dec 7–8 A Scandinavian Christmas in Cokato. Beautiful, unique gifts, including imported candy, specialty bakery items, including prune tarts, *karjalan piirakkas*, *pulla*, pasty, and more! Enjoy a delicious homemade Scandinavian meal. Share a dessert from our bakery with a friend and some coffee. Relax in our candle-lit sanctuary to enjoy the musical program put on by elves of all ages! Drive through the candle-lit Finnish cemetery to experience the tradition of remembering

loved ones who have passed away. The Finnish Cemetery is directly in front of the new Laestadian Lutheran Church where the Bazaar will be held. For more info: Cokato Laestadian Lutheran Church, cllchurch.org

Dec 15 Mark your calendars for a Finnish Christmas celebration highlighting the innovative culture of Finland. Enjoy elegant Finnish cuisine, live music, a Christmas carol sing-along, Christmas wreath exhibition, a marketplace with a variety of gift items, family-friendly films, and more. Finnish American Cultural Activities will also present its annual Sauna Bucket Award. 12:00–5:00 p.m. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis. More information: Kara Middleton, km7916@yahoo.com

Dec 20 and Dec 22 A Scandinavian Christmas. Join the Minnesota Orchestra for a very special Yuletide celebration: a winter bouquet of Scandinavia's most beautiful Christmas songs. The Auditorium at the Minneapolis Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave South, Minneapolis. For more info: minnesotaorchestra.org

Jan. 26 *Technology Tools*. Learn about hardware and how to use it to make your research life easier. Joan Dwyer and Carol Schwartzbauer will coordinate. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15.

Feb 15-18 Family Fun Week, Salolampi www.salolampi.org

Calendar-cont. pg. 7