



# Utiset

## NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

October/Lokakuu 2015

### Talking About Finnish Maria Hokkanen

We are happy to welcome Maria Hokkanen for our program this month. She will talk about languages in Finland and Finnish among the languages of the world.

Maria is a Finnish Fulbright Teaching Assistant who's just arrived from Finland to help teach in the Finnish program at the University of Minnesota with Dan Karvonen during the upcoming year. While in the United States, Maria will share her language and culture with U.S. communities to inspire Americans to travel and study overseas, and to help make U.S. citizens better prepared to engage with businesses, governments, and organizations abroad.

Maria grew up in Naantali and moved to Turku when she was seventeen years old. Her mother is originally from Lapua (near Seinäjoki) and her father from Rääkkylä, Pohjois-Karjala, so her roots come from other areas in Finland. She has a master's degree (Spring 2015) in Finnish language with an emphasis on teaching Finnish as a second or foreign language from the University of Turku. She has worked there as a research assistant, teaching advanced Finnish to second language learners since Fall 2012. She also taught Finnish in France in 2012.



#### Program In Brief

#### Talking About Finnish Maria Hokkanen

**Oct. 16, 7:00 p.m.**  
**International Institute**  
**1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*For help finding a ride to the program:  
call any of the board members*

Maria Hokkanen is one of over 400 young educators from 50 countries who will travel to the United States in the 2015-2016 academic year through the Fulbright FLTA Program to help internationalize U.S. colleges and universities, a key goal of many institutions as they prepare students for the 21st century workforce and globalized world. Recipients of Fulbright FLTA grants are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential. Fulbright FLTA scholarships are awarded by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

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## President's Message

*By Gene Ollila*

Hei, all FACA members, family, and friends,

We are enjoying a very nice "Indian Summer" with warm temps, tomatoes still forming, but with acorns and leaves falling. The board is looking forward to a great year and hope that all of you are doing well and staying healthy.

By the time you read this, FinnFest 2015 will be history. Some upcoming events: meet with Sibelius Academy students for breakfast, October 10; the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast, November 24 (page 5); and *Joulu—a Magical Finnish Christmas*, December 12 (page 5).

I recently met with Kira Johnson, representing outreach for Forever Mod (formerly FinnStyle). They are looking to partner with us for speakers and special events at the store for FACA members. This was a first meeting, so more to come.

Discussion concerning our potential affiliation with Finlandia Foundation will be coming up soon, and I look forward to this meeting. We also will discuss with the Christ Church Lutheran pastor the placement of the FACA library with the *Suomi-koulu* library in the church.

Our next FACA program on October 16 will be with Maria Hokkanen, a Fulbright scholar working with Dr. Dan Karvonen at the University of Minnesota. She is very engaging and will help both increase our understanding of Finland and the world and her understanding of our "Finnish American" culture. Even though most of us have Finnish heritage, we are not "Finns," and those differences should engage us and make us better citizens of this planet. This is also the message of the Festival of Nations. The Festival wants to emphasize culture and not borders.

We are setting up programs for the year and would like to hear your ideas; please let me know. And remember, the **programs now start at 7 p.m.** See you there.

*Kiitos paljon, Gene*

## Breakfast with Melanie Brooks and Finnish Students from the Sibelius Academy Conducting Class

Please join Melanie Brooks (who performed at our May 2014 program) and Finnish students from Helsinki's Sibelius Academy conducting class for breakfast and conversation on Saturday, October 10, 9:00 a.m., at the St. Paul Hotel M ST Café. The Café offers up to two hours of complimentary validated parking at the Lawson Ramp, between St. Peter Street and Wabasha on 5th Street. Present your parking ticket from the Lawson Ramp to your server.

For reservations and questions: contact Janie Ahola at janieahola@msn.com or (651) 455-6152 or (651) 249-6576. Reservations will be accepted through noon Friday, October 9.



## Board Notes

By Ruth Erkkila



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

The September FACA board meeting was called to order by President Gene Ollila at 6:28 p.m. at Bakers Square in St. Paul. All board members plus past president Bud Berry were present.

The minutes of the August board meeting were approved. Treasurer Janie Ahola reported that our bank balance for September 2015 was very close to what it was for September 2014, even with the unexpected expense of printing two years worth of the *Utiset* shells covers. This will result in a yearly saving of \$95 for the two years. Meeting room rental at the International Institute is up by \$25/ time.

Vice president Dennis Halme said our speakers for September will be talking about eating healthy. He received suggestions for other speakers.

For the September program, the board members will bring the refreshments. Past board member and hospitality chair Richard Harju said he will bring the coffee stuff, but expects not to take it home. A new hospitality chair needs to be found.

Membership chair John Rova said he has been contacting Finnish people who are not members of FACA telling them about our organization. He said many students with Finnish heritage visited our Festival of Nations culture booth. It would be nice if we could have students from Salolampi and *Suomi-koulu* working in our booth next year.

Janie will have a sign up sheet for the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast on November 24 at Friday's program. Sibelius Academy students visiting from Finland will join FACA members for breakfast on Saturday October 10, 9 a.m.,

at the St. Paul Hotel M ST Café. Janie needs to know who will attend. *Joulu--Magical Christmas* is scheduled for December 12 at Christ Church Lutheran. This year FACA is not involved in planning this event.

Phillip Erickson has tried unsuccessfully to find FACA bylaws and articles of incorporation. Ruth will make copies for him.

The metal *Tervetuloa* sign donated by Eleanor Kraker will now stand in its new base (made by Gene's cousin) at the sign-in table.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m. Next meeting is Oct 13, 6:30 pm at Bakers Square in St. Paul.

## Sibelius 150: Vänskä Conducts Sibelius—Nov. 5-6

By Betsey Norgard

Sibelius "miniatures" will be the focus of the Minnesota Orchestra concert programs on Thursday, November 5, at 11:00 a.m., and Friday, November 6, at 8:00 p.m. The pieces include the *Suite from Karelia*, *Pohjola's Daughter*, and *Tapiola*.

Finlandia Foundation National will have an information table in the lobby preceding both concerts. Also on display at Orchestra Hall during the Sibelius weekend concerts will be an exhibit about the world and family life of Jean Sibelius.

The Sibelius 150 series continues in February concerts on February 4-6, featuring the YL Choir performing *Kullervo*, and the premiere of Olli Kortekangas' *Migrations*, celebrating the 150th anniversary of permanent Finnish settlement in Minnesota. Concerts on February 18-20 will feature Sibelius' *Symphonies 1 and 3*, and the *Violin Concerto*, played by Hilary Hahn. [www.minnesotaorchestra.org/buy/special-events/sibelius-150](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/buy/special-events/sibelius-150)



## Finnish Organ Virtuoso and Baritone Perform at Central Lutheran

Internationally-renowned concert organist Kalevi Kiviniemi and baritone Jukka Pietilä will perform at Central Lutheran Church on Sunday, October 18, at 4 p.m., as part of their first U.S. tour together.

Kalevi Kiviniemi, a native of Lahti, has toured in Europe, Asia, Australia, and the U.S. for more than 20 years. He has performed with major orchestras and played at venues such as Notre Dame Cathedral, and on a number of historical organs.

He has made more than 150 recordings, which include two Gold and one Platinum, plus received other awards for recording. In 2009, Kiviniemi was awarded the State Prize for Music, the highest honor given by the National Council of Music in Finland. He served as artistic director of the Lahti Organ Festival from 1991 to 2001.

Jukka Pietilä has served as cantor of the Turku Cathedral since 1996. In 2003, Pietila was awarded the honorary title of Director Cantus by the Archbishop of Finland. He has performed throughout Finland, Europe, and the U.S., and published four CDs.



*Jukka Pietilä and Kalevi Kiviniemi*

Kiviniemi and Pietilä have toured together across Finland since 1996, performing religious music (singer and organ).

On Sunday, October 18, they perform at Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th Street, Minneapolis (across from the Minneapolis Convention Center), at 4 p.m. The concert will

feature works of French composers CocherEAU and Widor, as well as the music of Jean Sibelius. A freewill offering will be taken. An interview by Minnesota Public Radio's *Pipedreams* announcer Michael Barone will be a part of a reception following the concert. Free parking in Central Lutheran's parking lot south of the church.

Kiviniemi and Pietilä begin their tour with a Sunday evening concert at FinnFest 2015 in Buffalo, and then perform at Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin.

As guest artists at Gustavus Adolphus College, they will offer master classes and perform a concert on Friday, October 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Chapel. Tickets are \$12 general and \$9 seniors.

On Tuesday, October 20, Kiviniemi and Pietilä will perform in Duluth at First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior St., at 7 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken.

## Recap of September Program

Ester and Melvin Niska entertained and educated us on healthy eating and the difference it can make in one's life. They provided the latest nutritional information and told anecdotes from their own health histories.

Ester, a Finn, did not come from a family with healthy eating habits, and when her own well-being was compromised by poor eating, she undertook a change in lifestyle. She and Melvin educated themselves and followed through with many changes.

The couple took turns covering the material in a lively way, and there were many questions from the audience. In addition, many FACA members enjoyed chatting with the Niskas after the program. We want to thank them for a fine and friendly presentation.

### Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 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

## **Joulu is coming!**

By *Betsey Norgard*

Mark your calendars for the Twin Cities' Finnish Community's fourth annual celebration of *Joulu*—*Magical Finnish Christmas* that will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.

**Traditional Holiday Christmas Buffet—Noon to 2 p.m.**—Enjoy chef Soile Anderson's elegant *Pikkujoulu* dinner from Deco Catering, a feast for the eyes as well as a sumptuous selection of Finnish delicacies. Featured in the Christmas Buffet will be carved Christmas ham, accompanied by breads; a variety of herrings, cheese, and lox salmon; pea, cucumber, and *rosolli* (red beet) salads; holiday rutabaga and carrot casseroles; and Scandinavian strawberry torte for dessert. Join with other families in continuing this decades-old *Pikkujoulu* tradition. The cost for the Christmas Buffet is \$35 for adults; \$17 for children ages 5-12; and free for children age 4 and under. To order tickets, go to <http://christmas-buffet2015.eventbrite.com> or call (612) 460-1573.

**Kauneimmat Joululaulut, 3 p.m.**—Following the buffet, enjoy Finland's popular Christmas sing-along of carols and holiday music in the beautiful Christ Church Lutheran sanctuary, with music from the Finnish brass septet Ameriikan Poijat.

Enjoy more at *Joulu*—Magical Finnish Christmas:

- **Wreath Design Contest**—Create your own wreaths with the theme “Magical Finnish Christmas” to bring for decoration during the afternoon at *Joulu* and to take home.
- **Joulutori (Marketplace), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**—The *Joulutori* will be a great place to do some Christmas shopping for Finnish imports, crafts, books, CDs, and tasty treats.
- **Finnish Café**—Enjoy Christmas tarts; *pulla* (cardamom bread); Christmas cookies and torte; coffee, tea, and juice during the day.
- **Kids' activities** during the afternoon

More details will be provided in the November newsletter. Volunteers will be needed to help host this community-wide event.

Tax-deductible donations are welcomed at the event to help cover the costs of *Joulu* and to help keep the event one that the Finnish community can share for many years to come.

## **Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast**

Begin your Thanksgiving celebration at the 31st annual Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast, Tuesday, November 24, the Grand Ball Room, DoubleTree by Hilton, 7800 Normandale, Bloomington. Seating begins at 6:30 a.m., breakfast starts at 7 and the program ends at 9. Tickets are \$25.00 per person. FACA is arranging tables for Finnish Americans to sit together. For reservations, contact Janie Ahola at [janieahola@msn.com](mailto:janieahola@msn.com) or (651) 455-6152.

This annual charitable event brings together people of Nordic heritage and their friends to enjoy a breakfast, music and three esteemed individuals from the community who will share personal experiences about the importance of freedom, faith, family and friends.

Gina Torry will speak about Freedom. She is the Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum and an international peace-building expert. She worked with international mediators while serving as the Executive Director of the Peace Research Endowment before joining the Nobel Peace Prize Forum in Minnesota.

Ford Bell will speak about Family and Friends. Bell is former president and CEO of the American Association of Museums and has more than 30 years' experience as a nonprofit executive, board chair, donor, trustee, educator, and scientist. He is a dedicated public servant devoted to strengthening community.

Reverend Mark Hanson will speak about Faith. Hanson is the former Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He is widely known as a leader with passion and imagination who leads national and international initiatives to advance interfaith dialogue and inspire peacemaking.

Don Shelby, senior journalist and former WCCO anchor, returns to serve as Master of Ceremonies. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Bethel University Choir and Taylor Ann Grand, Danish-American soprano.

This fundraising event not only provides an opportunity to offer thanks for the privileges of freedom, faith, family and friends, it also gives attendees during the program an opportunity to contribute to a collective Nordic gift to two local nonprofits: Second Harvest Heartland and Minnesota Military Family Foundation.

***Finnish-Americans in War and Peace: Contradictions in Loyalty during the Turbulent Years 1910-1950***  
by Rainer G. Langstedt

*By Matti Huupponen and Jeanne Swope*

Rainer Langstedt covers many topics in Finnish and Finnish-American history of perpetual interest to American Finns: first immigrations (New Sweden Colony and nineteenth century), settlement patterns and social history of the newcomers, co-ops, Red and White Finns (in both countries), the resettlement of eastern Karelia by American Finns, the Winter and Continuation Wars, and Finland's post-World-War-II struggle to maintain its independence from the USSR. He focuses on the area of Spencer, New York, and reveals many of the same developments that Finnish settlements in other areas have experienced. Langstedt mixes general information with specific incidents, which makes the book highly readable. The book provides a useful overview of the time period, and it includes notes and a bibliography that will help readers who want to check his sources or go deeper into some of the subject material.

Matti Huupponen, who moved to the U.S. in his late teens, was particularly interested in the Finnish immigration history in this book and the involvement of Finnish Americans in more recent Finnish history; these things were not covered in his Finnish schooling. He was particularly interested in the following:

- The Forest Finns, who came as part of the New Sweden Colony in the 1640s. They practiced slash and burn agriculture, good for settling rough forest land, and brought the fitted-corner log cabin to the New World. Some famous descendents: John Morton (Martti Marttinen) and George Bush (Mauno Antinpoika).
- The second immigrant wave, 1860s to 1913, bringing 350,000 Finns to the U.S.
- American Finns followed several political directions. Some 15,000 "red" Finns accepted Stalin's invitation to settle in Karelia from the USSR; most were exterminated and only about 1,500 survived to return to the U.S.
- American Finns serving in the Winter War on both sides.
- The 1950s and 60s and the Cold War issues.

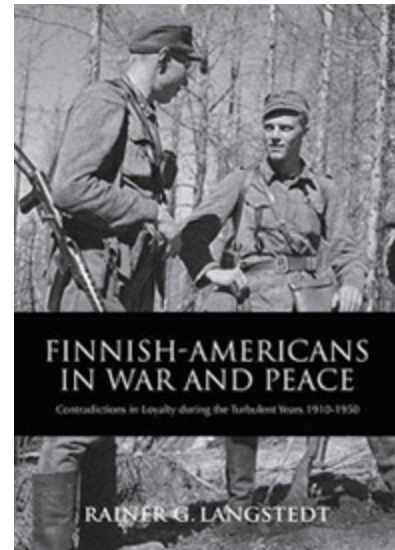
Rainer Langstedt is a native Finn who graduated in 1966 from agriculture college in Finland. He met his wife Marlys when he was an exchange student at the University of Minnesota. After working some years for American companies in Finland, he moved to New York state to market forestry machines for a Finnish company. Later he and his wife owned a company that marketed Finnish forest machinery in the U.S.

Langstedt says: "I have always been interested in history. My hometown of Spencer, New York, used to be a Finnish settlement. When we moved here in 1976, one could still speak Finnish in the bank and the hardware store. That generation is now gone.

The Historical Society has a lot of material in Finnish that I seem to be the last local able to translate. Eventually there will be no one who can tell the story about the time when there were 11,000 Finns in the area. I felt that there was a need to make a permanent record of what the Finns were up to and how the Finnish-American community was influenced by the geo-political events of their time. It took me three years to write the book. Two summers I traveled to Helsinki to do research in the National Archives. The complete list of Finnish-Americans who became volunteers in the Winter War is, to my knowledge, assembled for the first time in the book. My hope is that future generations of Americans can confirm their ancestors' participation from the book."

The book is published by St. Magnus Press. It is available at:

Northeast Silva, LLC  
458 Halsey Valley Road,  
Spencer, NY 14883  
northeastsilva@gmail.com  
www.northeastsilva.com  
\$21.00 including shipping and handling in US/  
Canada.  
Checks to Northeast Silva LLC



## Events Calendar

**Oct. 10** Breakfast with Melanie Brooks and Sibelius Academy Conducting Class students. St. Paul Hotel M ST. Café, 9:00 a.m. More information, parking; see page 2.

**Oct. 9-12** FinnFest USA 2015, Buffalo, NY; *Finnspiration: Celebrating Saarinen 75th and Sibelius 150.*

**Oct. 16** FACA program, International Institute of Minnesota, 7:00 p.m.

**Oct. 18** In Concert: Kalevi Kiviniemi, concert organist, and Jukka Pietilä, baritone. Central Lutheran Church, 333 S. 12th Street, Minneapolis, 4:00 p.m. (See page 4.)

**Oct. 18** Finnish Culture through Movies group. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. 6:00 p.m. *Kesäkaverit / Summer Friends.* [www.finnkino.fi/eng/Event/300286/](http://www.finnkino.fi/eng/Event/300286/) More information: [minnesotafinnish.org](http://minnesotafinnish.org); click on Suomi-koulu, then Groups, then Finnish Culture through Movies or call (651) 428-3155.

**Oct. 23** Submit articles for November FACA *Utiset* by midnight to [facaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:facaeditor@gmail.com).

**Oct. 24** The Finnish Genealogy Group-MN, Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m.

**Oct 25** Finn Hall playing at the Eagles 34. 2507 E 25th St., Minneapolis, MN, 6 – 9:00 p.m. Come and enjoy an evening of music and dance! Cover charge \$5.00. More information: Facebook and [finnhall.com](http://finnhall.com)

**Nov. 5-6** Sibelius 150: Vänskä Conducts Sibelius, Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestra Hall, Thursday 11:00 a.m.; Friday 8:00 p.m. (See page 3.)

**Nov. 24** Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast. (See page 5.)

**Dec. 6** Finnish Independence Day celebration. Save the date; details coming.

**Dec. 12** *Joulu: A Magical Finnish Christmas*, Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis. (See page 5.)

**Tuesdays.** Finnish Conversation Group. St. Anthony Park Library, Como and Carter Aves., St. Paul, 4:00–5:30 p.m. More information: Urho Rahkola, (651) 429-3319

**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](mailto:karvo001@umn.edu)



### Memorial For Bette Ruskanen Set

We are sorry to hear of the passing away of Bette Ruskanen, FACA member, Kisarit dancer, and friend of many in our group.

The memorial service for Bette will be on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Plymouth Covenant Church, 4300 Vicksburg Lane, Plymouth.

Visitation at 10:00 a.m.

Memorial service at 11:00 a.m. with lunch to follow immediately after the service.

Note: There is construction on Old Rockford Road and on Vicksburg Lane, but you can get to the church from Vicksburg Lane.



### 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.

dedicated to exploring and preserving

Finnish and Finnish-American heritage.

(612) 374-2718, [www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

*Pieniä Paloja*

(Little Pieces)

- Prime Minister Juha Sipilä has estimated that up to 50,000 asylum seekers could arrive in Finland in 2015. This is considerably higher than the 30,000 asylum seekers cited in previous government estimates. The migrant crisis has created notable tensions between the member states of the European Union. First and foremost, the heads of state agreed, the EU should seek to secure its external borders and help the member states most affected by the migrant crisis. In addition, the union is set to offer additional help to non-EU countries, specifically to Turkey. *Helsinki Times*
- Recently, about three dozen Finnish nationalists hurled rocks and fireworks at a bus filled with Iraqis seeking asylum in Finland. They also threw rocks at Finnish Red Cross volunteers waiting to welcome the asylum seekers. Images of a faux Klansman carrying Finland's flag in one hand and a megaphone in the other prompted a wave of outrage from Finns on the opposite side of the political spectrum. Despite ideological differences, Finland's three-party coalition government

said in a statement on Friday that it “strongly condemns last night’s racist protests against asylum seekers” and urged supporters to accept that “Finland is an international, open and tolerant country where the majority accept migrants.” *New York Times*

- Some Finnish artists have got together to stand up for wolves with a new exhibition in Oulu to counter the bad press the wild animals get in Finland. Local artist Erkki Halvari said the idea of wolves as a problem to eliminate led the artists to create paintings for “100 Wolf Songs.” Wolf hunting has been controversial in Finland for many years. The country has taken significant steps to improve the protection of the wild animals in recent years and yet allow hunting to continue. The paintings aim to redress the idea of wolves as something that needs to be controlled. “All nature’s animals have the right to exist in peace. Wolves kill for food, not for fun as humans do,” Halvari says. *Yle*