



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

November–December/Marraskuu–Joulukuu 2017



FILM: *THE EXILE'S SONG*

Presented by FACA and Minneapolis–Kuopio Sister Cities

For our November program, we are partnering with the Minneapolis–Kuopio Sister City organization to present the exclusive screening of the new documentary, *The Exile's Song*, produced by Finnish filmmaker Marja Lampi. The film was shown for the first time this summer for Finnish descendants in Ottawa, Canada. Our showing on November 17 is the U.S. debut.

The central story in the film focuses on Aaro Jalkanen, who leaves Finland in 1914 due to his active strivings for independence. He is living in exile in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, when he writes the song *Kallavesj*. He doesn't know if he can ever return home to Finland.

The four other stories open up to us the world Jalkanen misses while he is far away from home. They include a fishing episode, one of the most disastrous inland water accidents in Finland, the painting of the dramatic illustration by the lake for *Kalevala, Forging of the Sampo* by famous Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela and a New York-born American missing her childhood with her grandparents in Kuopio by Kallavesi Lake.

Marja Lampi interviewed Jalkanen's grandchildren, who told about the colorful life of their grandfather—a lawyer, writer, linguist and diplomat in New York and Duluth.

Program in Brief

Film: *The Exile's Song*
Presented by FACA and
Minneapolis–Kuopio Sister Cities
Friday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
**International Institute
of Minnesota**
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
(across from the Fairgrounds).

In this 51-minute film, the storytellers share their deep love of beautiful Kallavesi Lake and surrounding areas of Kuopio, Finland. The movie provides a window into understanding Finland of the past 100 years and a wonderful opportunity to see Kuopio, Kallavesi and Koli in Finland.

There are English subtitles. Bring a friend; the public is also invited to attend at no cost. Coffee, refreshments and conversation will follow the program.

FACA Event Cancellation Policy

If St. Paul public schools are canceled due to bad weather, then a FACA event scheduled for that day will also be canceled. FACA members may contact any board member if they have a question.

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President's Message

By *Kaarina Kotkavuori*

There have been so many Finnish events to enjoy recently. I haven't had so much fun being Finnish (except when I was actually visiting Finland).

Thank you to all who attended our October program.

It was great to have you there. I enjoyed listening to Dr. Richard Ojakangas. My father spoke to me about his memories of his service in the Finnish Army. Dr. Ojakangas gave a lot of detailed, interesting information about the wars that helped me piece together Dad's memories.

Do bring your friends to our November program to see the film, *The Exile's Song*. Admission is free, and we will serve popcorn during the film.

I attended two wonderful Finland 100 events recently. The U of M Campus Club served a great dinner, and Craig Randal Johnson provided music and commentary. The chef took her menu from the Finnish Board of Ministry. She is not Finnish, but her food was excellent traditional Finnish food. Another delightful event I attended was the St. Anthony (sister city of Salo, Finland) concert. They presented Finnish music that was composed for their event. The concert and reception were lovely.

Each year we present the Sauna Bucket Award to a member who has given outstanding service to FACA. We would appreciate receiving nominations from our members. Please contact a board member if you have someone to nominate. I look forward to seeing you at our next program.

Tulkaa mukaan!

Please Volunteer!

FACA still needs an additional board member. The position would be "FACA Communications/Promotions."

The main function is to send out monthly FACA updates/information to a list of various periodicals (i.e. *Finnish American Reporter*, *Finlandia Foundation*, *FinnSource*, possibly the *Star Tribune* and others) and ask them to include our upcoming FACA program information in their calendar of events.

This job can be handled on your own timetable. We need a central coordinator so we won't miss having our events posted. For FACA to continue, we need to try to grow the FACA membership, and we want to present a clear and consistent message.

Please contact one of the board members from the column on the left for questions and/or to volunteer. *Monet kädet kevyttää työn!* (Many hands make light work.) Please consider volunteering.

Kiitoksia paljon!



New Performance by the Third Generation

The music performance “Songs From Grandpa” is a special Finland 100 Celebration event with Finnish and Finnish-American traditional and folk music. Jeanne Santa Doty and her daughter Johanna will be part of the music performance, along with Jeanne’s brother, Gregg Santa, who was part of Norway’s National Opera for many years. They make fantastic music.

The event will be Saturday, November 18, at 10:30 a.m., at the County Seat Theater/Encore Performing Arts Center, 2035 Hwy. 33 South, Cloquet.

Invite your friends, family and others! After the performance is over, take in some other Cloquet-area attractions on your own. Go out for lunch! Go to a local craft sale! Take a drive on the new road through Jay Cooke State Park! (This road just opened after being closed for five years since the 2012 flood.)

Duluth Celebrates *Pikkujoulu* and Finnish Independence Day

37th Annual *Pikkujoulu* Dinner and Program
Sunday, December 3, 12:30 p.m.
Doors open at 11:45 a.m.
Holiday Inn, 200 W. 1st St., Duluth

Following the annual *Pikkujoulu* Finnish dinner will be a program featuring Jeff Lisakka showing a video of interviews from local and abroad with music and a collection of interesting bits and pieces of Finland. Also featured are the Jarvenpää Singers and the Kanteleen Soittajat kantele group.

Tickets, beginning November 1, are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children under 10. For tickets, call Donna at 218-879-4871 or 218-590-8655, or email Arlene Tucker at tuck5080@yahoo.com. **Deadline for purchasing tickets is November 27.** Seating is eight per table; those wanting to sit together should order tickets at the same time.

Celebrate Independence Day in Duluth
Wednesday, December 6, 5–8:30 p.m.
Duluth Depot Great Hall and Steffl Gallery
506 W. Michigan Ave., Duluth.

Celebrate with a Finnish American art exhibit and program on Independence Day and enjoy the artists’ reception, live music, Finnish-inspired refreshments, proclamations and displays.

Finnish Christmas Room at American Swedish Institute

November 12, 2017—January 8, 2018

This year, Anita Jain led the way in creating a unique Finnish Room as part of the annual holiday display at ASI. Kathy Jackson, Liisa Ojala and Kaarina Kotkavuori joined in the planning and/or decorating. See photos for a preview!



Experience one of the region’s most talked about seasonal destinations with *Fest!* Merry Mansion, the American Swedish Institute’s 2017–18 exhibition of Nordic Holiday Rooms. Explore the unique and interactive displays of customs and traditions from the five Nordic countries of Sweden, Norway, Denmark,

Iceland and Finland, all set under one elaborately decorated roof, the historic Turnblad Mansion!

Fest! is a demonstration in detail of the dramatic ways in which to celebrate the holiday season. ASI annually invites a special community guest to participate in the holiday exhibits in the Turnblad Mansion. This year we celebrate the holiday traditions of Romanian origin in an installation produced by the Heritage Organization of Romanian Americans in Minnesota.



Board Notes

By Teresa Tjepkes

The October 16, 2017, FACA board meeting was called to order by President Kaarina Kotkavuori at 1:05 p.m. at her home in St. Paul. Also present: Janie Ahola, Kathy Jorgensen, Pam Rahkola, Urho Rahkola and Teresa Tjepkes.

Board members discussed the Pea Soup and *Pannukakku* Dinner that took place on September 21 at the Danish American Center. With approximately 227 meals served, the event was hugely successful. The Facebook announcement on the event proved very helpful. The performance by Finn Hall was popular. The event made the news in Helsinki on *YLE*.

Janie reported on the treasury, including results from the dinner, upcoming newsletter, and tax filing deadline on February 5, 2018.

Kaarina and Kathy reported on FACA's information table at FinnFest 2017.

Pam updated the board on next year's Festival of Nations preparations. The theme will be "Now and Then." Kathryn Hill will return as bazaar and café chair. Kisarit will once again perform.

Several board members will attend the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast on November 21.

The board is still working on details for showing of *The Exile's Song* at the November program. Urho will be sending an informational email to FACA members about sales of tickets for the Nordic American Breakfast and Finland 100 Gala and donated items at the program.

Kathy updated the board on preparations for the Finland 100 Gala. Anyone interested in donating to the Gala can visit its GoFundMe page.

The board approved a \$500 donation to the Salolampi scholarship fund, with \$400 coming from FACA and \$100 from the Bette Ruskanen estate.

The meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m. The next board meeting will be at 1 p.m. at Kaarina's house on November 13.

Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast Final Notice

Time is running out! With the ticket deadline of Wednesday, November 15, don't delay in making your reservations for the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast.

This year's celebration takes place Tuesday, November 21, in the Grand Ballroom of the DoubleTree by Hilton, located at 7800 Normandale Boulevard, Bloomington. Doors open at 6:30 a.m., program begins at 7 a.m.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$250 per 10-person, reserved table. Students pay \$20 per person. Reservations are required and may be purchased through Janie Ahola at janieahola@msn.com or by calling (651) 455-6152. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.sonsofnorway.com or by calling Sons of Norway at (612) 821-4640 no later than Wednesday, November 15.

For those with food allergies and specific dietary restrictions, please contact Janie Ahola or Sons of Norway.

The programs and guest speakers for the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast include: Freedom—Kathy Tunheim, Principal and CEO, Tunheim Partners Inc.; Faith—Dr. Deanna Thompson, Hamline University Professor of Religion; Family and Friends—Garrison Keillor, author, storyteller and radio personality. Master of Ceremonies is Don Shelby, Senior Journalist. Music will be provided by VocalEssence Singers, directed by Philip Brunelle.

Along with being a celebration of thankfulness, the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast is a charitable event. This year's beneficiaries are the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Second Harvest Heartland. Please help support these charities by donating at the breakfast.

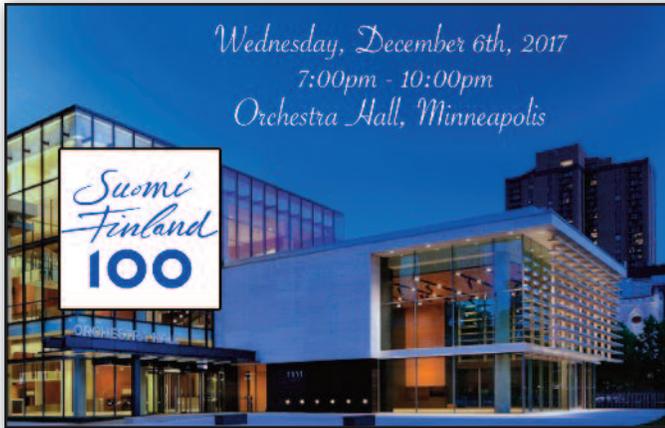
Finnish costumes, sweaters, scarves and jewelry are always welcome!

Tervetuloa!

Welcome, new FACA members!

**Shirley Janacek, Ham Lake, Minn.
Susan Keskinen, Star Prairie, Wis.
Valerie Ryti-Cunningham, Hector, Minn.
Arlene Putikka Tucker, Hermantown, Minn.
Barbara Wilson, Bloomington, Minn.**

Suomi Finland 100 Gala



Tickets will be available for sale (cash or check only) at Early Bird rate at our November FACA program.

Wednesday, December 6, 2017, 7–10 p.m.
Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

Immerse yourself in Finnish culture while celebrating 100 years of Finland’s independence. This music-filled Gala includes music by Silver Ainomäe’s quartet Cellissimo; Kari Sundström; Eric Peltoniemi; and the Finland 100 Chorus led by Eeva Savolainen. To conclude the evening, guests will be invited to dance to Finnish tunes from the last 100 years.

Finnish appetizers and desserts will be served, and there will be a cash bar.

Tickets: **\$65—Early Bird Adult** (the price is going up on November 18) and **\$35 Student** tickets are also available through EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suomi-finland-100-gala-tickets-37806936565>

FACA Membership

A one-year membership for \$25 provides you with eight issues of this newsletter, plus other benefits. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check the mailing label for membership expiration date.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Enjoy the Music of *Kauneimmat Joululaulut*

Saturday, December 16, 12:30–2:30 p.m.
Christ Church Lutheran
3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis

In this festive and busy year of Finland’s centennial, the annual *Joulu*—Magical Finnish Christmas celebration will present only the *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* (Most Beautiful Christmas Songs) sing-a-long program, the 40-year-old tradition in Finland of the sharing of Christmas’ most-beloved carols and songs. Following the program, enjoy coffee and treats.

Note: There will not be a Holiday Buffet or *Tori* this year.

Finnish History Trivia Questions

Finnish history buffs—test yourselves! Answers in the next issue!

1. To what country did Finland belong to before Russia took possession in 1809?
2. Who gave Finland Independence and what was the date?
3. On November 26, 1939, what did Russia do to try and provoke Finland into war?
4. What date did the Soviet Union declare war on Finland, thus starting the Winter War?
5. What was the name of the leader of the Finnish Army in the Winter War, who had previously been an officer in the Imperial Russian Cavalry?
6. How many modern tanks did Finland have at the start of the Winter War?
7. What name did the Finns give to the incendiary device in a bottle that they created?
8. What was the name of the Finnish sniper who had over 500 confirmed kills?
9. At which battle did the Soviet Union suffer its worst loss of the Winter War?
10. What was the name of the defensive bunker line that ran across the Karelian Isthmus and formed the backbone of the Finnish defense?
11. The Soviet breakthrough in February 1940 came at the battles of Summa and Lahde. What was the name of the large concrete bunker complex that saw the heaviest of the fighting in these battles?
12. The Finns admitted defeat after the Soviets captured Viipuri. On what date did Finland and the Soviet Union come to a peace agreement?
13. How long after the Winter War ended did Finland’s Continuation War begin and who was it against?
14. What was the Lapland War?

Recap: Richard Ojakangas/Finland's Wars

By Teresa Tjepkes

For our October program Dr. Richard W. Ojakangas, Professor Emeritus of Geology at the University of Minnesota Duluth, presented "Finland's Three Wars to Stay Independent, 1939–1945." These conflicts, which include the Winter War and Continuation War with the USSR and the Lapland War with Germany, are little known to most American audiences and tell a fascinating story of a small force defending its country against great odds.

At the start of the Winter War, the Finns were outnumbered more than three to one by the Russians, but had early success in the conflict due to the extremely cold winter that year, poor leadership on the part of the USSR, and Finnish *sisu*. Among the strategies used by the Finnish military were *motti* tactics, the word *motti* referring to a cord of firewood. The Finns would cut into the large Russian convoys, creating smaller units as one cuts into firewood to make small bundles. These smaller units were cut off from supply lines and had a harder time defending themselves.

Despite defending its territory for much longer than expected, Finland was forced into a ceasefire when the Russians broke through their main defensive line. As part of the treaty terms, Finland was forced to cede Karelia. Most of the region's residents left their homes, leaving all they knew behind rather than suffer under the Soviet regime. Karelia was briefly regained during the Continuation War, but was lost again in the end and remains with Russia to this day.

Dr. Ojakangas, who has long had an interest in Finland's history, has seen the aftermath of these battles first hand in his own work as a geologist. He and his Russian colleagues once discovered a skull in a foxhole in Karelia while out in the field studying the local geology. Hoping to find more information about the soldier, his colleagues searched the area more closely and discovered a small square of brown fabric from a uniform. Because the Finnish military wore white uniforms, they determined that the fallen soldier was Russian and contacted the authorities in hopes that he could be identified.

For further information on the Winter War, Dr. Ojakangas recommended the book *A Frozen Hell: The Russo-Finnish Winter War of 1939–1940* by author William Trotter.

Kiitos for a fascinating program, Dr. Ojakangas!

Paljon kiitoksia! Thank you so very much!

By the Salolampi Foundation's Scholarship Appeal (Phonathon) Committee—Linda Warpula Davis, Kaarina Kotkavuori and Ruthann Rintala Swanson

What a wonderful summer Salolampi Villagers had this summer! Over 150 campers enjoyed the beautiful setting of the village, the many teachers from Finland and the fun times. The Salolampi Foundation Board has voted to give every attendee a 30 percent reduction in tuition. As a result, this past summer's scholarship bill was \$80,000. It is easy to see why the Scholarship Appeal needs to encourage donations.

The Appeal Committee moved the phonathon to October 9, 10 and 11 when the hubbub of FinnFest 2017 and Finland 100 celebrations had lessened. We appreciate the access to the phones at InFaith Foundation's offices that enabled us to call all across the country, from Maine to Hawaii. Their staff is so gracious to us. We are very grateful for their support.

We appreciate the support from FACA members. **Calling from InFaith offices:** Marlene Banttari, Edith Boos, Linda Davis, John Hanson, Gil Kinnunen, Kara Middleton, Carol Pesola, Dan and Delores Salin and Ruthann Swanson. **Calling from home:** Stella Arola, Elsie Barnaby, Joanne Bergman, Junelle Bernard, Marilyn Harma, Andreas Ostenso, Urho and Pam Rahkola and Vergene Ollila Routhe. **Paperwork helpers:** Ruth Erkkila, Phyllis Kiihn, Jeanne Swope and Luella Zibell. Other callers were from Minnesota, many other states and Canada. You helped the Salolampi Foundation with its mission of sustaining the Finnish language and culture through scholarship support for youth. **Thank you to you all!**

If you would like to contribute to the scholarship fund, please send donations to Salolampi Foundation, P.O. Box 14480, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0480. Or if you prefer to donate online, go to the secure website salolampi.org.

Elizabeth Brauer, the new assistant dean for adult programs, is planning new creative programs that will appeal to adults, including long weekends to fit into your work life. Go to salolampi.org to check out what is going on at the Village.

Events Calendar

Nov. 17. November FACA Program. International Institute of Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Nov. 18. Finnish Genealogy Group—Minnesota meeting. Plymouth Lutheran Church, 11015 Old Cty. Rd 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m.

Nov. 21. The 33rd Annual Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington. Tickets available now from Janie Ahola. See page 4.

Dec. 2. Cokato Finnish American Historical Society *Pikkujoulu* and observance of the 100th year of Finnish independence (Finland100). Arrive in time for the Candle Lighting at the Finnish Cemetery at 3:30 p.m. At 4:30 p.m., join the Potluck Supper at the Cokato Township Hall, 30th St. and Co. Rd 3. Special music by Diane Jarvi.

Dec. 3. 37th Annual Pikkujoulu dinner and program in Duluth. Holiday Inn, 200 W. 1st St., Duluth. 12:30 p.m. (doors open at 11:45 a.m.). Tickets, beginning Nov. 1, are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children under 10. For tickets, call Donna at 218-879-4871 or 218-590-8655, or email Arlenetucker@yahoo.com. **Deadline for tickets is Nov. 27.** See page 3.

Dec. 6. Finland 100 Gala. Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, 7–10 p.m. Tickets: \$65—Early Bird Adult (the price goes up on Nov. 18) and \$35—Students. Tickets available at Nov. 17 FACA program (cash or check only) or by credit/debit card through EventBrite:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/suomi-finland-100-gala-tickets-37806936565>. See page 5.

Dec. 6. Celebrate Independence Day in Duluth. Duluth Depot Great Hall and Steffl Gallery, 506 W. Michigan Ave., Duluth, 5–8:30 p.m. See page 3.

Dec. 16. *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* (The Most Beautiful Christmas Songs). Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis, 12:30 p.m.

Dec. 22. Deadline for articles and calendar entries for January 2018 *Uutiset*. There is no *Uutiset* or program in December. We hope that this preholiday deadline for the January newsletter will allow you to send your items in and enjoy the season with one fewer thing on your mind! Email your articles and calendar items to facaeditor.org by this date (earlier is always welcome!).

*Hauska Joulua ja Ommelista
Nutta Vuotta!
~ 2018 ~*

Jan. 19. January FACA Program. International Institute of Minnesota, 7 p.m.

Jan. 27. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. Meeting will be held at the Plymouth Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m.

June 23–July 4. FinnFest will take place between these approximate dates in Tampere, Finland, with day trips planned from there for a full week of programming and excitement. Pricing will include both program and lodging—the planning has just begun!

Tuesdays. Finnish Conversation Group. St. Anthony Park Library, Como and Carter Aves., St. Paul. 4 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 p.m. The group does not meet during holidays. New members welcome. Call Dan 763-544-1441.

Fridays. Finns 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.



Do you remember longtime FACA member **Velma Doby**? She continues to recover from a stroke and enjoys cards. She has just moved to Villa Marina Health and Rehabilitation Center, 35 N. 28th Street, Superior, Wis. 54880



Conversational Finnish Class
Tuesdays, 4–5:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Library
Corner of Como and Carter Avenue
St. Paul
Everyone is welcome.
For more information, please call
Urho Rahkola at 651-429-3319.

Pieniä Paloja—Short news items from Finland

- Serving coffee and treats in October were Stella Arola, Edie Boos, Linda Davis and Helen Ylönen. (Caryl Weaver also provided additional snacks.) *Kiitos paljon!*
- “We are delighted to share our good news: if everything goes as expected, we will have **an addition to our family in February 2018,**” **announced President Niinistö and his wife, Jenni Haukio.** This will be her first and his third child.
- **Finland’s presidential campaign is now in full swing.** Candidates include incumbent Sauli Niinistö, Independent, with backing of National Coalition Party; Nils Torvalds, Swedish People’s Party; Matti Vanhanen, Center Party; Pekka Haavisto, Green League; Tuula Haatainen, Social Democratic Party; Laura Huuhtasaari, Finns Party; and Merja Kyllönen, Left Alliance. Advance voting is Jan. 17–20 for Finnish citizens living outside of Finland. Election Day is Jan. 28. If no candidate wins more than 50 percent, a run-off will take place on February 11.

- **In Finland, any member of the public can call up the local tax office to inquire about a total stranger’s annual income and tax contributions.** On the first day of November, all data is released by the Finnish Tax Administration. This is an important national event in Finland. A caller should have the name and location of the person whose records they are requesting. To be on the safe side, the caller should know the person’s full name and year of birth.

Traveling Sauna—AUCTION TIME!

One the most common questions throughout the TravelingSauna campaign has been, “What happens to Sisu at the end of the year?”

It has been so rewarding to hear this question. As you may recall, we’ve answered, “Don’t worry, we’ll find Sisu a good home.” Well, here it is folks! Your chance to bring SISU into your life! Let us know if you can provide a future home for Sisu. Auction is now open at <http://www.travelingsauna.com/auction.html>. Auction ends November 30 at 11:59 p.m. CST.