



# Uutiset

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

April/Huhtikuu 2014

### Current Views on the Origins of the Finns Presented By Daniel Karvonen

Have you wondered where the Finnish people and language originated? How are they (we) like or different from other Europeans? Dan Karvonen will talk about current research and views on the origin of the Finnish people.

In the late 1600s, scholars noticed that the Finnish language was related to Estonian, Sámi and Hungarian, but not to most other languages spoken in Europe. This led to questions of where the language and the people came from. Over time, theories on Finnish origins have run the gamut from somewhere in Mongolia or near the Ural Mountains in Russia, to the Finns as the source of all Western culture, based on a vague theory of a connection between Finnish and ancient Egyptian.

Finland has been continuously inhabited since the last Ice Age, and various waves of population have contributed to the genetic make-up of modern-day Finns. Recent advances in DNA and other fields suggest that the Finns have been in Finland for a very long time and are for the most part quite “European.”

Finland’s relative isolation, however, has resulted in Finns being fairly distant genetically from other European populations. Come to this program and hear more.



#### Program In Brief

##### ***Finnish Origins*** ***Dan Karvonen***

**April 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**International Institute**  
**1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*If you need transportation, call*

*Marianne Wargelin*  
*(612) 374-2718*

Daniel Karvonen is a fourth-generation Finnish-American with research interest in linguistics, genetics and genealogy, and is a senior lecturer in Finnish at the University of Minnesota. He has a BA in Finnish and Russian (University of Minnesota), MA in linguistics (Indiana University) and PhD in linguistics (University of California Santa Cruz). He can often be found running marathons or learning obscure languages such as Mari or Dakota.

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## President's Message

By *Bud Berry*

In March, Julie Goldstein's presentation was very entertaining. Julie told both Finnish and Jewish folktales.

The Festival of Nations is coming up in early May, and FACA will be participating. We already have some volunteers and do need more. Please contact any Board member (see our names, phone numbers and email on the left side of this page) if you can help. We will have admission tickets and parking information for volunteers. The Festival provides an opportunity to promote the Finnish culture through our cultural exhibit booth and the Finnish Café. FACA volunteers are crucial to the success of both endeavors. (FACA is also the sponsor for Irene's Favorite Things sales booth in the bazaar; our volunteers are not involved there, but it's a fine place to shop!)

Recently the FACA board discussed the need to have a procedure to cancel a program in case of adverse weather. When you renew your FACA membership, please make sure we have your correct phone number and email.

Two Board members, Edith Boos and Bud Berry, will complete their three-year terms in May 2014. A nominating committee of three members, Kathy Jackson, Urho Rahkola and Dan Salin, are looking for possible new Board members. If you are interested in serving on the FACA board, please contact one of these volunteers, or contact one of the current Board members so she or he can forward your name to the nominating committee. At our Annual Meeting in May (before the program), candidates may also be nominated from the floor.

## Last Call for Finnish Travel Memories or Wishes

By *Jeanne Swope*

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

For an upcoming article, tell us: where it is, why it calls to you, in just a few sentences or a little list. Don't work hard on this—the first thing that comes to your mind is the best thing. Jot it down and email to [facaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:facaeditor@gmail.com) or mail a note or post card to FACA ATTN Jeanne Swope, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. Two ideas? Send them both!

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

Call Jeanne at (612) 827-6773 if you want some cheerleading. We can make a great travel suggestion article for the May or June *Utiset*!



## Board Notes

By Ruth Erkkila



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

The March FACA Board Meeting was called to order by President Bud Berry at 6:32 p.m. at the Ramsey County Library in Roseville. All members were present.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved. Treasurer Edith Boos reported the checking account balance.

Vice President Janie Ahola suggested a program for the September meeting recognizing the 65th anniversary of FACA (originally organized as the Minnesota Finnish American Historical Society) and the 30-year anniversary of FACA as a separate entity.

Hospitality Chair Richard Harju said the hosts for March are Marlene Banttari and Junelle Bernard. The hosts reimbursement for refreshment expenses was discussed. Richard moved that the hosts be reimbursed \$25; John Rova seconded. Motion passed.

The February meeting's *Laskiainen* celebration took place with plenty of pea soup. The attendance was low due to bad weather. This prompted a discussion of a cancellation policy. The president would be the one to decide to cancel an event. The question of how to notify members was discussed without resolution. Further investigation is required. Bud will contact the International Institute about possible help with the notification.

FACA contributed \$250 for Salolampi scholarships. Kathy Jackson will see that the money is distributed.

Richard Harju will coordinate volunteers for the Finnish Café and the exhibit at the Festival of Nations. Janie Ahola will pick up tickets and parking information for the exhibit and café volunteers.

Janie said that modern clothing was approved for exhibit volunteers, since our theme is a modern one, presenting information about the celebration of Ahtisaari Day in the Finnish schools. Former President of Finland Martti Ahtisaari won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008. Ahtisaari Day, held on or around November 10, features activities about the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Elections will be held in May to elect two members to the FACA Board. Bud Berry and Edith Boos will have completed their three-year terms and will not be running for reelection. Previous Board members can run again. Bud will appoint a nominating committee.

After the May election, Bud will call a meeting that includes the two newly elected members, to elect Board officers and discuss financial matters.

The honorarium for program speakers has been \$50 for in-town speakers and \$100 for out-of-town speakers. We discussed increasing this. Ruth made a motion, second by Janie, that we pay \$100 to speakers for the rest of the year. Motion passed.

The next meeting: April 15, 6:30 p.m., Perkins restaurant, Roseville.

## Looking Forward to the May Program

By Janie Ahola



We will conclude the 2013-14 programming with music! Be sure to come see Melanie Brooks when she performs Finnish saxophone quartet music with friends at the May FACA program. She has just been selected to represent the United States as a Fulbright Scholar. Next year, she will travel to Finland to study in Peter Ettrup

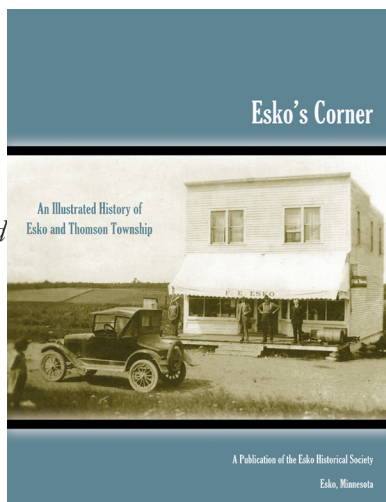
Larsen's Wind Orchestra Conducting Masters' Class at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki (the same institution where Osmo Vänskä was trained). Melanie is happy to share this news with FACA due to our "incredible support" as her interest in Finland began to blossom a few years ago.



## New Book Reveals Esko Area History

Press Release from Bob Esko

A long-awaited history of Esko and surrounding Thomson Township is finally a reality. *Esko's Corner, An Illustrated History of Esko and Thomson Township*, is off the press and available for purchase.



The 400-page book—the culmination of a project organized by the historical society in 2008—was researched and written by a volunteer committee, designed by Duluth historian Tony Dierckins and produced by Bang Printing of Brainerd.

“We originally thought it would take a couple of years to write the book, but we kept learning more, writing more, adding more photos, and it developed a life of its own. We hope readers will find it was worth the wait,” says committee member Davis Helberg.

The book, whose title stems from the community’s original name, includes some 70 stories, about 160 photos, nine maps and is bound in a hard cover with a dust jacket. There are stories about the township’s geology, early trails, railroads, logging, sawmills, first settlers, dairy farming, the 1918 fire, schools, churches, businesses, fire department, Jay Cooke State Park, social organizations and sports teams.

Special features enable the reader to learn the origins of local road names, meet the township and community namesakes, visit vanished town sites, make a trip down the Midway River and gain insight into why so many Finns settled in Thomson Township.

The book (\$25) may be ordered from the website, <http://www.eskohistory.com>, or by calling (218) 879-9267. Questions should be directed to Davis Helberg (218) 590-4570 or [dwhelberg@aol.com](mailto:dwhelberg@aol.com).

## SISU Seminar: Finnish Language Study Opportunity in Duluth

How about dedicating one week this summer to learning some/more Finnish and enjoying Finnish cultural activities? The 10th SISU (*Suomen Innokkaat SISUkkaat Ulkosuomalaiset*) Finnish Language and Culture Seminar will meet July 27 to August 2 on the University of Minnesota-Duluth campus. You will meet like-minded people and may even see some familiar FACA faces.

You will participate in 25 to 30 hours of informal, interactive Finnish language study at three levels with native speaker teachers. There will be presentations and other activities at other times. Marja Kaisla, concert pianist and Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year will present a concert on August 1.

The seminar fee is \$425, plus a \$20 membership fee. You can sleep and eat in on-campus housing for \$300 (add \$200 if you prefer a single room), or perhaps you have other housing in Duluth. Not much for a little “trip to Finland” this summer! You will even have time to attend FinnFest in Minneapolis from August 8 to 10. Registration deposits are due April 30 (\$225 seminar + \$150 housing). For forms and more information, contact Kathleen Ristinen, [kaisa@eurekanet.com](mailto:kaisa@eurekanet.com), or 1-(740) 592-1157.

## Café Note from Kathryn Hill

Festival of Nations is approaching fast! I'm busy here in Park Rapids preparing for the Café—putting together lists of ingredients and other items we will need and placing orders. I have received the license from the State of Minnesota to operate as a Café, so it's all coming together nicely!

Tickets for the volunteers will be distributed at the April FACA meeting. Call a FACA board member if you will miss that meeting. I look forward to meeting and working with each and every one of you either at baking day or at the Festival. The Café thrives because of all of the wonderful volunteers. So if you haven't already signed up, please consider doing so. The more volunteers we have, the more successful the Café will be and it will be a lot more fun!

I would like to thank Pam and Urho, Bud, Richard, Janie and the rest of the board members for all their generous help so far!

## Finnish Exhibit, Festival of Nations

By Janie Abola

This year's theme for the Festival of Nations is "Peace among the People." Since peacebuilding plays an important role in Finnish society, our cultural exhibit will highlight Ahtisaari Day, observed in Finnish schools since 2010. The event is timed to coincide with the nameday of former president Martti Ahtisaari, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2008, and focuses on peace education and conflict prevention. Our exhibit will loosely replicate a Finnish classroom and showcase differences from an American classroom (e.g., Finnish classrooms have a no-shoes policy!). The exhibit will have school desks where participants can play a game testing their knowledge of peace words, and then receive a peace maker sticker. Each year, Ahtisaari awards a prize to several Finnish students, recognizing their peacemaking efforts in school.

### Costumes:

We are not wearing traditional (old-time) costumes this year, though if you have a national costume, you can declare that you are wearing it because "this is my name day." For consistency, female volunteers are asked to wear black (or tan) slacks or skirt along with a colorful Finnish or Finnish-like top (pullover, blouse, or tunic); adding a jacket or colorful scarf is a good choice. Male volunteers are asked to wear black (or tan) pants along with a Finnish or Finnish-like shirt. NO t-shirts with any kind of writing or signs on them. Striped shirts are very popular for men and women. For examples, see [finnstyle.com/marimekko-cotton-shirts.html](http://finnstyle.com/marimekko-cotton-shirts.html).

Also, don't forget to bring appropriate "classroom" slippers!

### Thank You

Thank you to the FACA Board for selecting me as recipient of the 2013 Sauna Bucket Award. I am grateful and overwhelmed to have my name inscribed on the Sauna Bucket with the names of all who have received the award since 1996. For the next year, the Bucket will be displayed on a table against our sauna memorabilia wall, where it will be "guarded" on one side by the St. Urho bobblehead and on the other by the Osmo Vänskä bobblearm. *Paljon kiitoksia!*

Gil Kinnunen

## FinnFest USA 2014 Update

By Jeanne Swope

More information about the August FinnFest 2014 Festival is now appearing on the website, [www.finnfestusa2014.org](http://www.finnfestusa2014.org), and we hear that registration will probably be live by the time you read this *Utiset*.

We will provide more information about the May 24 Finnfest events in Cokato in the May newsletter.

Events for August include Education and Genealogy Seminars preceding the Festival; musical events and art exhibits at various locations around the Twin Cities; seminars, panels and *tori* (market) inside the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the center of FinnFest activity. There are many parking areas near the Hyatt Regency at 13th St and Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, and the hotel may be easily reached by MTA buses from many areas of the Twin Cities. We plan to keep giving you information in the May and June newsletters. But the best source will be the website as it grows and develops.

Later in the fall, various musical events will also fly the FinnFest 2014 flag! You can read about them on the website. FACA *Utiset* will print information about these events later.



## 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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## March Program Recap

By Janie Abola

Using theatrics, storyteller Julie Goldstein delighted the audience as she made her Finnish and Jewish folktale characters come to life. Julie said the power of the word is strong in both Finnish and Jewish cultures, as evidenced in their folktales. Folktales may include magic, spells or supernatural powers. Lives are often changed for good or bad.

To set the mood, Julie began her stories by asking the audience to close their eyes and imagine having no phones, radios, TVs, video games or any other modern device. She chose stories with humor and a moral.

In Julie's first story, *Finland's Greatest Fisherman*, a poor fisherman, Ukko Rantala, is tricked by a sly fox who plays dead in the middle of the road. Ukko picks up the fox and places it into his sleigh with his fine catch of fish. The fox eats all the fish and jumps out while Ukko drives home, crowing over his good fortune. Ukko realizes that celebrating his good fortune "too much" caused him to be outsmarted by a fox. The moral: "Not all our fisherman are in the boat."

The second story, *The Pigheaded Wife*, is about a patient man, Matti, and his stubborn wife, Liisa. No matter what Matti asks of Liisa, she does the opposite. After safely crossing an old bridge, Matti calls Liisa, asking her to "step lightly" on the old rotten wood. Stomping hard across the bridge, Liisa falls into the water. Perplexed harvesters watch Matti search for Liisa upstream, and ask him why he isn't looking downstream. Matti responds, "Any other woman would float downstream, but my wife is so contrary she would go upstream." Moral: Even if she's dead, she's bound to go against the current.

In *The Coat of Patches*, a poor man, Chaim Yankl, leaves his wife and children to live as a beggar. During his travels, Chaim saves his money by sewing the bills to his coat and covering them with patches. After several years, he returns to his family a rich man. Leaving his old patched coat at home in a corner, Chaim goes out and buys a fine new wool coat. When Chaim returns, he discovers his wife gave the old rags to a young beggar. Later, Chaim's sees the beggar in the village wearing his old patched coat. He asks the beggar to trade the old patched coat for his fine new coat, and the beggar gladly accepts. Moral: For luck, you don't need wisdom.ca

The final story, *The Truth About the Feather*, is about Yenta Yetta, who loves to gossip about other people. Eventually Yetta loses all her friends because of her gossip, and goes to the rabbi for advice. The rabbi tells Yetta to go home, slit open a pillow and return to him with all its feathers. On her way back to the rabbi, a strong wind blows away all the feathers except one. Following the rabbi's advice (to put the feather where she will see it every day), Yetta puts the single feather on the headboard of her bed as a reminder of her errors, and becomes a storyteller for the village children. Moral: Those words once flown from your lips can never be taken back.

Julie concluded the program with some humorous Finnish and Jewish proverbs.

Julie's forebears migrated from Eastern Europe, the Ukraine and Lithuania, bringing their rich stories with them to the U.S. Julie has taught the art of storytelling at Hamline University, St. Catherine University, the women's prison in Shakopee, and in the living room of her home.

If someone is telling a good Finnish story, even the coffee might turn cold!

## Better Late Than Never



At the February *Laskiainen* celebration, Kathy Jackson gave a presentation on turning flax into linen. There simply wasn't room in the March issue to include this photo.



## Pieniä Paloja

- Marlene Banttari and Junelle Bernard served fine *kahvi aika* treats at the March FACA program. *Paljon kiitoksia!*
- In Inari, Finland, *Porokuninkuusajot* (Reindeer Championships) took place on the Inari shore from April 3-6. There were “thrills of speed, lasso-throwing competitions in different leagues,” and a lively marketplace in which to spend the evenings after the action. Bus transportation was available from Saariselkä. *visitinari.fi*
- Pekka Haavisto (Greens), the minister responsible for ownership steering, is willing to consider selling Finland's majority stake in Finnair, if the majority of the shares in the airline remain in Finnish hands. Finland currently owns 55.8 per cent of the shares in Finnair through the state-owned investment firm Solidium. Only two months ago, Haavisto insisted that the shares cannot be sold.
- Migration of middle-income households from Helsinki to other parts of the Uusimaa region has abated only temporarily. Families have remained in Helsinki rather than buying a single-family detached house in the current economy. Researchers expect west and north-bound migration from the Finnish capital to increase as soon as the economy picks up steam. As a result, millions in tax revenue will move across municipal borders. For Helsinki, this does not bode well, with tax-payers yet again poised to seek better homes in more affordable localities.
- *Boom Beach*, the most recent game launched by the Finnish mobile game studio Supercell, is surging through apps charts following its release on iOS earlier this week. On Thursday, the strategy game ranked as one of the ten most popular iPhone applications in 22 countries, according to app store data analyst App Annie.

*Previous 3 articles from Helsinki Times*

### 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

## Additional Calendar Items from page 8

**June 27 to 28** 37th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead. Watch for more information: [www.nordiccultureclubs.org/](http://www.nordiccultureclubs.org/)

**Aug. 5 to 6** FinnFest 2014 Education Forum. For more information: [www.finnfestusa2014.org](http://www.finnfestusa2014.org)

**Aug. 7** FinnFest 2014 Genealogy Forum. For more information: [www.finnfestusa2014.org](http://www.finnfestusa2014.org)

**Aug. 8 to 10** FinnFest 2014 Festival. Minneapolis. For more information: [www.finnfestusa2014.org](http://www.finnfestusa2014.org)  
Tuesdays. Conversational Finnish group, St. Anthony Library, Corner of Como and Carter Ave., St. Paul, 4:00-5:25 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

**Thursdays.** The Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers meet every Thursday at the International Institute of Minnesota on Como Ave, St. Paul, across from the State Fairgrounds, 7:00 p.m. New members welcome. Call Dan (763) 544-1441.

**Fridays.** Finlanders at the U of M conversation hour meets at Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave. SE, Minneapolis (very near Folwell Hall), 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m. For more information: [karvo001@umn.edu](mailto:karvo001@umn.edu)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FACA needs your ideas and your helping hand. If you can help with any of the committees or events, please return this form. Thanks!

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program     | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter  | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Library             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Laskiainen</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pikkujoulu</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property    | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone   |

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Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708,  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708 or bring to the  
next program.



**Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.**

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

**FACA**

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

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

**Calendar**

**Apr. 18** FACA program, 7:30 p.m., International Institute of Minnesota

**Apr. 23** *European Parliamentary Elections: Why We Need to Pay Attention.* American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis, 6 to 8 p.m. Free. The evening is part lecture, part expert roundtable, and part Q&A. Watch for more details at [www.ASImn.org](http://www.ASImn.org) Registration recommended: call ASI at (612) 871-4907. More information: Betsey Norgard at [norgard@northlc.com](mailto:norgard@northlc.com) or (651) 270-9784.

**Apr. 25** Deadline for submissions for May *Utiset*. Send to [facaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:facaeditor@gmail.com)

**Apr. 26** Baking Day for the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. White Bear Lake High School. More information: Kathryn Hill at 218-252-1392 or [kathryn@irenesfavoritethings.com](mailto:kathryn@irenesfavoritethings.com)

**Apr. 26** Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. 9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Lynn Olmen: Presentation on the development of the Finnish male character. Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. Driving directions and time/place changes: [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org) (select “Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota,” then “Meeting Information”)

**Apr. 27** Finnish Culture through Movies. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave., Minneapolis, 6:00 p.m. *Rakkauden ruskapöytä*, [www.finnkino.](http://www.finnkino.fi/eng/Event/299269/)

[fi/eng/Event/299269/](http://www.finnkino.fi/eng/Event/299269/)). More information: (651) 428-3155

**April 30** SISU Finnish Language & Culture Seminar registration deposits due. *See article on page 4.*

**May 2 to 5** Festival of Nations. RiverCentre, 175 West Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul. Information about the Festival: <http://www.iimn.org/festival-of-nations/>. Volunteer to help in exhibit booth or Finnish Café: Richard Harju at (763) 784-9522, [richardharju@gmail.com](mailto:richardharju@gmail.com), or any Board member

**May 7** *Finland: Designed Environments* with MIA Associate Curator Jennifer Komar Olivarez. American Craft Council Library, 1224 Marshall St NE Suite 200, Minneapolis, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Free, but space is limited.

**May 12 to 18** Salolampi Finnish Language Village Spring Adult Week. More information: [www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/Programs/adults1.php](http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/newsite/Programs/adults1.php)

**May 16** FACA May Program and Annual Meeting

**May 24** Opening FinnFest 2014 in Cokato, where the first modern Finnish immigrants settled 150 years ago. Events from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Watch for details in the May *Utiset*. More information: <http://www.cokatofinnam.org/>

*Calendar-continued on page 7*