

## March/Maaliskuu 2018

### Music with Eric Peltoniemi

For our March program, Eric Peltoniemi will share songs and anecdotes about his long music career as singer, songwriter, guitarist, lyricist and composer for the music theater, and Grammy-winning record producer and record label executive. Early on, inspired by his heritage and his Finnish-speaking friends and relatives, he included Finnish songs in his act.

His love for music began in the 1960s in the small town of Wadena when, as a teenager, he began performing on his grandma's old guitar at county fairs, dances, township halls—and even boxing matches! He spent several years performing, across the United States, Canada and northern Europe, solo and with bands Trova, Suomi Orkesteri and Trova Ystävien.

His original songs have been recorded by numerous American and Finnish folk artists including Robin and Linda Williams, Claudia Schmidt, Finland's popular Topi Saha, as well as folk band Rahamäen Pojat. His song "Punaine" became a centerpiece in the acclaimed 2017 Finnish/Estonian film *Ikitie/The Eternal Road*. Eric also performs the song in the film.

Eric has written music and lyrics for numerous musical plays, including the award-winning regional hits *Ten November* and *Plain Hearts*. Recently he collaborated with playwright Peter Glazer on *Heart of Spain*, a musical of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade in the Spanish Civil War, underwritten with an endowment from the Opera-Music Theater Program of The National Endowment for the Arts.



#### Program in Brief

**Music with  
Eric Peltoniemi**  
Friday, March 16, 7 p.m.  
International Institute  
of Minnesota  
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul  
(across from the Fairgrounds).

All are welcome. Coffee (*kahvi aika*) and conversation will follow.

#### 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*

I thank the Kisarit dance group and Finn Hall for providing dancing and music at our *Laskiainen* celebration. It was a wonderful evening. I have to say the food our members brought was wonderful.



Watching the news on television in February, I saw a segment about a reporter going to the Walker Art Gallery to see the Little Box Sauna. Her visit looked interesting, so I decided to see the sauna. The sauna was outside the art gallery, and I was lucky to meet the architect. Of course I went in. The sauna was good and hot. So fun to see another traveling sauna!

Volunteers needed! I need 26 people (three for each four-hour shift) for the Cultural Exhibit Booth at the Festival of Nations. We are putting together an interesting booth. We can wear old-time or modern clothing, and I will help you with this choice. For volunteering, you will receive a free entrance ticket to the festival. There is a lot to see at the festival and lots of food and music to enjoy. Please get in touch with me and you can look forward to fun!

The FACA Board is again looking for volunteers to serve on the board. New board members mean new ideas. The jobs of the board are not difficult, but they are important. Please consider volunteering to serve on the board.

I look forward to seeing you at our March program.

*Kiitos! Kaarina*

## More Information about FinnFest in Finland

*By Marianne Wargelin*

FinnFest USA 2018 travels to Tampere, Finland, for a week of post-Juhannus adventures, June 24–29. Registration, hotel and program will very soon be available at [finnfest.us](http://finnfest.us). In the meantime, here is some basic information about hotels and registration.

Keep checking the FinnFest website for program details and registration. You will find them very soon.

**Lapland Hotel-Tampere.** You can reserve a hotel room with a down payment of \$250 along with the \$250 registration fee. Singles: \$127; Doubles: \$145. The Lapland Hotel provides free wi-fi and a full breakfast each day.

**Festival registration:** US \$250 for adults, \$50 for students under age 25, and \$5 for children ages of 6 and 11. The fee covers museum entrance fees, admission to all panel discussions, speeches, receptions, and other programs, festival program book and access to transportation options.

**All fees (including hotel booking) must be paid prior to May.** Before May 1, FinnFestUSA will refund fully the hotel down payment. Registration cancellations will be assessed a \$125 cancellation fee. Registration will continue until the festival but with a late payment fee.

## 2018 Festival of Nations Volunteers Needed

By Pamela Rahkola

Please consider volunteering to work a shift or two (or three!) in the Cultural Exhibit Booth or Finnish Café at this year's Festival of Nations (FON), May 3–6, at the River Centre in downtown St. Paul.

Everyone who volunteers will be given a free entrance ticket to the festival (a \$13.50 value). Plus Metro Transit will be giving out free passes for people going to the Festival of Nations. (Details will be provided later.)

We need volunteers for all shifts. There has been a Finnish Café at the FON since 1939. We would like this tradition to continue, but it can happen only with your help.

### FESTIVAL HOURS

**Students only:** Thursday, May 3: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Friday, May 4: 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**General public:** Friday, May 4: 4:30 p.m.–10 p.m.; Saturday, May 5: 10 a.m.–10 p.m., Sunday, May 6: 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Volunteers working directly with the public must be in costume. Jeans and T-shirts/sweatshirts with the word “Finland” on them are not acceptable. We have aprons for the women working in the café, but ask that any man volunteering to work out front wear a light-colored collarless shirt, black pants and a fisherman type hat if possible. (We do have suspenders to share for that extra special touch!)

### Cultural Exhibit Booth information from Kaarina

**Kotkavuori:** Because the theme of this festival is “Then and Now,” when you volunteer for the cultural booth, Kaarina will ask you whether you want to wear an “old time” costume or a modern outfit. Volunteers who portray “Then” should wear traditional Finnish costumes and volunteers who portray “Now” should wear black pants and a Finnish (Marimekko) shirt. Also, women may wear a Marimekko dress, and men can wear the same thing as in the café (see above). Costumes are available for anyone who needs one. Questions? Call Kaarina, 651-646-7783.

**Volunteers are still needed for Baking Day, to take place at the White Bear Lake South Campus Kitchen on Saturday, April 28, starting at 7:30 a.m.** We will be baking/packaging everything for the Finnish Café. In addition, we hope to have enough volunteers so we can make *piirakkas* to sell as a fundraiser at our May program.

Thanks much to those who have already requested shifts. Sign-up sheets will be available at our March FACA program, or please call me 651-429-3319 or email me at [pamela.rahkola@comcast.net](mailto:pamela.rahkola@comcast.net) to volunteer. *Kiitos!*

## A Photography Exhibit at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

by Ruth Erkkila

Fabulous photographs of people with mixed Finnish and Ojibwe heritage from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula are included in the project of Finnish journalists Katja Kettu and Maria Seppala, and photographer Meeri Koutaniemi. A reception to introduce the project and photo exhibit took place at the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C., on February 10; the photo exhibit closed on February 24. You can see some of these photographs here—  
“Findians: The Story of Finns’ Distant Cousins”  
[https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/findians\\_\\_the\\_story\\_of\\_\\_finns\\_distant\\_cousins/9087943](https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/findians__the_story_of__finns_distant_cousins/9087943)  
or here— Fintiaanian Mailla  
<http://www.bonnierrights.fi/books/in-the-land-of-the-finndians/>. The project is also a book based on interviews conducted after initial introductions at FinnFest 2014 and further travels in our area. Published in Finland in 2016, the text is only in Finnish. Plans include a video and perhaps translation.

The photograph “Welcome to Oulu” in Wisconsin caught my eye. That is the town where my father grew up, where we went to visit my grandmother and where my grandmother and grandfather are buried. There are photographs of people many of us have met at FinnFest in Duluth or Minneapolis: musician and recording artist Lyz Jaakola, physician Arne Vainio, and artist Carl Gawboy.

The made-up word “Finndian” is a word that comes with many pitfalls. For some it is a pejorative and functions as a racist slur. Nonetheless, Lyz Jaakola has embraced the term and titled one of her CDs “Finndian Summer.” Then there is the spelling with one or two n’s. In English Finndian seems to be the preferred spelling, although in Finnish it might be with one n.

Marianne Wargelin has a copy of the book and hopes the project will “initiate a discussion into the racism that created and perpetuated the term.” She is willing to share her copy with people who would like to see the book for themselves and to possibly read the Finnish text.



## November Board Notes

By Teresa Tjepkes



Left to right: Pam Rahkola, Teresa Tjepkes, Kathy Jorgensen, Janie Ahola, Kaarina Kotkavuori

The February 13, 2018, FACA board meeting was called to order by President Kaarina Kotkavuori at 5:30 p.m. at the Wilder Center in St. Paul. Also present: Janie Ahola, Kathy Jorgensen, and Teresa Tjepkes.

The board minutes for January were read and approved.

Janie reported that sales and use tax from September's Pea Soup and Pannukakku Dinner was paid to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. FACA's current balance is good. The board discussed and approved FACA's budget for 2018, pending final review by Pam.

Kathy updated the board on plans for the March program and discussed potential guest speakers for April and May.

The board finalized its plans for the *Laskiainen* celebration. Janie found the sauna bucket pins and will bring them to the February program. The 2017 Sauna Bucket Award will be given out after announcements.

The planning committee for the Festival of Nations is looking for 26 volunteers to help run the cultural booth. Volunteers will be asked to wear either a traditional costume or specific modern dress to fit with the theme of "Then and Now." Metro Transit is giving out free passes for people going to the Festival of Nations.

The board also discussed decorations and crafts for the cultural booth.

Kathy updated the board on plans for the Finland 100 volunteer party to take place on February 20 at 5:30 p.m. (The party was later postponed until March 7 due to bad weather conditions.)

The next board meeting will be 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 14, at the Wilder Center. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

## Sauna Bucket Award

Congratulations to Jeanne Swope, this year's recipient of the Sauna Bucket Award! Jane Olson, last year's winner, presented her with the bucket at FACA's annual *Laskiainen* program on February 16.

Jeanne is a long-time FACA member and a dedicated volunteer who has worked many hours on behalf of our organization. She has been editor of the FACA *Uutiset* since 2013. For many years, she has volunteered at the Festival of Nations—baking day, the café and the cultural booth. She has volunteered to help at special events such as our Thursday night Pea Soup and *Pannukakku* Dinner last September.

She is an attendee at Tuesday's *Oppitunti* (Finnish conversation group) at the St. Anthony Park Library, has volunteered at the annual Salolampi Phonathon, has served on the FACA board and has worked on the FACA website.

*Paljon kiitoksia, Jeanne!*



Jeanne Swope, recipient of the Sauna Bucket Award

**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.

## Recap of February Program: *Laskiainen* Celebration

by Kathy Jorgensen

FACA's annual *Laskiainen* celebration was enjoyed by more than 70 people. What a fun and lively evening!

We honored Jeanne Swope, our *Utiset* editor, with the 2017 Sauna Bucket Award. Jane Olson, the 2016 recipient, presented the award. The award honors a FACA member who has contributed to FACA and the Twin Cities Finnish-American community in an exceptional way. Jeanne was lauded for her tireless service as editor, past board member, and a dedicated volunteer at many FACA events over many years. We also took an alumni photo of many past Sauna Bucket Award winners who were present.

The *Laskiainen* feast was a bountiful spread of many flavorful potluck dishes brought by members. The FACA board provided several flavors of pea soup, and Kathy Jackson contributed her specialty, Palo yellow pea soup. With such an abundance of pea soup, people filled containers to take home to enjoy later!

Following the meal, we were entertained with lively Finnish tunes—waltzes, jenkkas, polkas—by the Finn Hall Band, featuring Ralph Tuttila, Dennis Halme, Al Reko, Jaana Tuttila, and new members Lotta Kiuru-Ribar (violin and vocal) and Daniel Ribar (guitar.)

With accompaniment by Finn Hall, the Finnish-American Kisarit dancers in their traditional hand-made peasant costumes, danced several folk dances, with Kathy Jackson giving background. The audience had a great time joining in on *Svett Mesjats*, a Russian-Karelian clap mixer, a *humppa* mixer, and the finale of the *Lampaan Polska* which has become a favorite at the *Laskiainen* celebration, where the audience forms a long circular line that twists tighter and tighter until it is too tight to move. Kisarit began in 1972 and has performed at several FinnFests and regional festivals plus two trips to Finland, and has hosted several workshops.

So, with *Laskiainen*, we put away our spinning wheels, signaling the end of the winter “flax spinning season,” and began thinking about spring planting!

See photos at: <https://kjjorgensen.smugmug.com/Suomi-Finland/FACA-Programs-2017-2018/Feb-2018-Laskiainen/>

## *Frukost*

Eric Jaakkola has alerted us that Saturday, April 7, 8–11 a.m., is the date and time for *Frukost*, the Swedish smörgåsbord at the American Swedish Institute (ASI), 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis. Join the Swedish Men's Chorus (by the way, some of the singers are Finns!) for a breakfast of Swedish pancakes, eggs, kringler, and much more, while enjoying traditional Swedish music and a tour of the historic Turnblad Mansion. The breakfast is a fundraiser for chorus activities and performances.

The cost is \$20 for adults and \$10 for children. Tickets are available at the ASI front desk, from a member of the male chorus, or on-line. Visit



<https://www.asimn.org/programs-education/events/svensk-frukost-breakfast-music-heritage-asi-male-chorus-0> for information and tickets. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$25 each. For more information, call 612-669-9158.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## St. Urho's Day Celebrations

Many communities in the United States, Canada, and other parts of the world hold festivals and parades in honor of Saint Urho's Day. Some of the better known are in Finland, Minn.; Finlayson, Minn.; Menahga, Minn.; Thunder Bay, Ontario; Butte, Mont.; and Hood River, Ore. The website [sturhosday.com](http://sturhosday.com) catalogs St. Urho's Day activities each year. The full url is <https://www.sturhosday.com/>. Not much is listed for 2018 yet—apparently Finnish Americans are still tired out from celebrating the 2017 Finnish Centennial! You can still amuse yourself with the definition of the holiday in Wikipedia at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint\\_Urho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Urho).

This year, in Finland, Minn. the 2018 St. Urho's celebration will be on March 16, 17 and 18. This includes a St. Urho's Day Craft Fair at the Clair Nelson Center in Finland, Minn., March 17 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St Urho's Celebration in Finland, Minn.—Home Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/sturho/>



*St. Urho and friend enjoy a drive through the woods. Both of them like some quiet alone time. Of course!*

## Whispers in the Wind

By Charlotte Virginia Johnson (Maki) Goodman

Whispers in the wind

reveal the coming of Spring

Whispers, whispers

Early springtime birds

are huddled in the trees

Waiting for a gentler breeze

North Wind wields a

crashing blow

Shattering all the banks of snow

Whispers, whispers

Tomorrow

brings a sunny day

Maybe Spring will come to stay.

*Elizabeth Hollowell sent us some of her mother's writing a year ago, to use in the Uutiset.*





## March 2018 Calendar

**March 11. Diane Jarvi's release party for her book**  
*The Way She Told Her Story*. Lowertown Artists Lofts  
Cooperative in St. Paul, 4 p.m.

**March 14. FACA board meeting.** The Wilder Center,  
451 Lexington Parkway N., St. Paul, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

**March 16. St. Urho's Day**

**March 16. March FACA Program.** International  
Institute of Minnesota. 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul  
(across from the Fairgrounds). 7 p.m. Visitors  
welcome!

**March 23. Deadline for submitting calendar items**  
and articles for the April *Utiset*. Send to  
facaeditor@gmail.com.

**March 24. The Finnish Genealogy Group Meeting.**  
Whatever happened to Grandpa? Black sheep in your  
pedigree? Marlene Bantteri, Pam Erickson, and Jeanne  
Swope. Plymouth Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County  
Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m. Visitors welcome.

**April 1. Easter Sunday**

**April 7. Frukost.** The Swedish Male Chorus hosts a  
Swedish breakfast smörgåsbord. American Swedish  
Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, 8–11 a.m.  
More information: see page 5.

**April 20. April FACA program.** International Institute  
of Minnesota. 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul (across from  
the Fairgrounds). 7 p.m. Visitors welcome.

**April 20–21. Finnish conductor Klaus Mäkelä leads**  
**the Minnesota Orchestra**, Orchestra Hall, 1100  
Nicollet Mall, 8 p.m. Cameron Carpenter on the organ.

**April 28. Baking Day for the Finnish Café at Festival**  
**of Nations.** White Bear Lake South Campus Kitchen.  
For more information, see page 3.

**May 3–6. Festival of Nations**, River Centre, St. Paul.  
For more day/hours information, see  
festivalofnations.com/info/. To see how FACA is  
involved and to volunteer, see page 3.

**June 2. Sisu Heritage, Inc.'s National Sauna Day in**  
**Embarrass.** Nelimark Homestead at the corner of  
Highway 21 and East Salo Road, 9:30 a.m.–4 p.m.  
Among the attractions, a lineup of mobile saunas will  
be present.

**June 24–29. FinnFest will take place in Tampere,**  
**Finland!** See page 2.

**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.

## In Memoriam

**Beth Ignacia Karjala** passed away on February 17, 2018. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 45 years, Gene Karjala. Beth was born in Sioux Falls, S.D. on February 1, 1936. She attended South Dakota State in Brookings, S.D. and began her teaching career in Milaca, Minn. in 1958. After 28 years of teaching, she retired to pursue other interests, especially working professionally as a fiber artist. During their 45-year marriage, Beth and Gene traveled the world and experienced many things. What she enjoyed most was spending time with her friends, sister and her family. She will be remembered for her Irish humor, her fashion sense and her love of entertaining. A Celebration of Life was held at her home on February 24.



***Tervetuloa!***  
**Welcome, new FACA members!**

**Sandy Johnson—Burnsville**  
**Linda L. Koskela—St. Paul**  
**Steven Uusitalo—St. Paul**  
**Janice Wnukowski—Eau Claire**



**Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.**

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

*Finnish American Cultural Activities  
is dedicated to exploring and preserving  
Finnish and Finnish American heritage.*

[www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

## ***Pieniä Paloja—Short news items from Finland***

*Kiitos* to all who brought food! Thanks to the FACA board for a fine variety of pea soup, and to the members who brought a great variety of appetizers, side dishes, breads and desserts. A feast!

**The Finnish *Presidentti* coffee** we serve in the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations has been delighting and soothing Finns for a long time. The Paulig company began in 1876, and changed the name of “blend 26,” to *Presidentin Sekoitus* (“President’s blend”) in 1929, in honor of its rich character and refined taste, and began packaging it in the recognizable green and gold colors. In 1994 the coffee’s name was shortened to *Presidentti*.

**Ähtäri Zoo in Sotkamo opened its Snowpanda House** in mid-February as a high-profile addition to the Finnish tourist scene. The stars Lumi and Pyry (“Snow” and “Snowfall”) are already delighting about 500 visitors a day. Mikko Savola, Ähtäri Zoo’s chairman of the board, expects the pandas to bring a substantial surge in attendance numbers and attract 300,000 visitors per year.

**Councillors in Sotkamo** have approved uranium extraction at the Terrafame mine. Terrafame is the state-

owned firm now running the mine that previously went bankrupt under the Talvivaara name. The plan still requires approval from central government. “Sotkamo municipality views it as more appropriate to recover the uranium and use it than to treat it as waste, which would in any case have to be dealt with via some sort of process,” said chair of the council Anne Lukkari.

**Finnish President Sauli Niinistö and many others were on hand at the Helsinki Airport to welcome home many of Finland’s 2018 Winter Olympics athletes.** Niinistö gave a speech in which he thanked each of the medal-winning athletes—skiers Iivo Niskanen and Krista Pärmäkoski (she won three of Finland’s six Olympic medals), slopestyle bronze medallist Enni Rukajärvi, and the bronze medal-winning women’s hockey team. Enni Rukajärvi, Krista Pärmäkoski, Aino-Kaisa Saarinen, sports psychologist Hannaleena Ronkainen and head coach Antti Koskinen presented Niinistö with a small blanket for his new son, knit by the team members staying in the Olympic village during the games.