



FACA Uutiset

Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

May–June/Toukokuu–Kesäkuu 2018

After the Celebration Comes the Remembrance: Finland and Finnish America's "Red" and "White" Wars

K. Marianne Wargelin

At our May program, K. Marianne Wargelin will explore how Finland's history, including its Declaration of Independence and the Civil War that quickly followed, also involved Finns living in the U.S. and activities occurring in Finnish America. The history of Minneapolis Finntown and other places in Minnesota illustrates that Finland's Civil War was fought also in the USA.

Marianne's father and mother, Raymond and Kaarina Wargelin, were a Suomi Synod pastoral team. She grew up in three Finnish American communities: Berkeley, Calif., Fairport Harbor, Ohio, and Hancock, Mich. Marianne is a graduate of Suomi College (Hancock, Mich.), Augustana College (Rock Island, Ill.), and the University of Michigan.

While working on her PhD in American Studies at the University of Minnesota, she taught Cultural History at Anoka-Ramsey Community College until 1997. When she left teaching, planning to concentrate only on her research, she accepted two additional roles: Honorary Consul for the Republic of Finland in the Twin Cities since 1999 and President of FinnFest USA since 2004. She co-edited and wrote a number of the essays in *Women Who Dared: The History of Finnish American Women*, published three encyclopedia essays and other journal essays, all reflecting her research into small cultures within Western Culture, particularly Finnish America and Finland. Her PhD dissertation is now in its final stages at the University of Tampere in Finland.

Program in Brief

Wargelin Explores Finnish America's "Red" and "White" Wars

Friday, May 18, 7 p.m.
International Institute
of Minnesota

1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
(across from the Fairgrounds).



Marianne Wargelin and her husband Clifford Brown are greeted by Finnish President Sauli Niinistö and wife Jenni Haukio at the Finnish Independence Day reception in Helsinki on December 6, 2017.

In an epilogue, Marianne will comment on how, 100 years later, Finland commemorated the Declaration in 2017 and is remembering the Civil War in 2018.

Join us. Coffee and conversation will follow!

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President's Message

By *Kaarina Kotkavuori*

I would like to thank the volunteers who helped create the Finnish Cultural Booth for the Festival of Nations. Gil and Dawn Kinnunen were a joy to have on the team that planned the booth. They are amazing and creative people. We had a lot of fun putting the booth together. I also thank Kathy Jackson for lending her family's very old kantele and folk costumes, and Risto Sivula for providing the photos of the Traveling Sauna. Most of all, thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time in the cultural booth and the Finnish Café.



We have had a marvelous year. It was great visiting with so many people at our programs. I am very impressed by the interesting speakers our program chair Kathy Jorgensen found. And then, there was the wonderful food after the program. People enjoyed the food and also enjoyed talking with each other.

May is our last program for spring 2018. It is also my last program as president of the FACA Board of Directors. The best part of being president for me was greeting you as you came in. I hope you all felt very welcome to our programs. It has been great fun speaking to you and sharing information about Finnish activities in the Twin Cities.

I wish you continued exploration of your Finnish roots.

Hyvää kesää!

Kaarina Kotkavuori

Kitoksia to Kaarina Kotkavuori as she steps down as President of the FACA Board of Directors! She has been a FACA member since the beginning of the club and has supported FACA in countless ways over the years.

You Don't Want Your Photo Included?

We enjoy taking photos at FACA events, and many people enjoy the memories or the chance to see a glimpse of what they missed because they are not able to attend. At times we will share photos with FACA members by including them on the FACA website (<http://www.finnfaca.org/>) and/or in the *Uutiset* (newsletter).

At the same time, we understand that not everyone wants his or her photo seen by others. If you do NOT want your photo included, please indicate by signing a short form at the next FACA program, or by contacting Kathy at kathymjorgensen@yahoo.com or 651-459-2654 to let me know. We will do our best to avoid including you. No problem!

Thank you!
Kathy & John Jorgensen

Two FACA Board Members Needed

By Pam Rahkola

We hope all of you enjoyed attending the many Finnish and FACA events this past year. It's been a fun and event-filled year celebrating Finland 100, plus FinnFest in Minneapolis last September. We hope you have enjoyed the monthly FACA programs as well. However, these events don't just happen. It takes work behind the scenes by FACA board members.

Please, seriously consider volunteering to join our FACA Board of Directors.

We are looking for two additional members to volunteer for three-year terms. Elections/confirmations will take place at our May 18 program.

There will be no calling committee. We are asking interested FACA members to contact one of the current board members with any questions and/or to volunteer. Phone numbers and email addresses can be found on page two of this FACA newsletter. Anyone is welcome to join, whether you are new to FACA or have been a long-time FACA member, and even if you have previously served on the FACA board. To function well, it is an advantage to have both experienced members and new people on the board. We need to return to a full board of six members (two new members joining the board every year, for three-year terms). Board positions will be voted on among the board members at their first meeting. Board member duties are not "set in stone" but agreed upon together.

We feel we've had a good year and have provided interesting programs. Attendance at our monthly programs has been up, so we know there is interest. We even topped 100 attendees at the April program about Minneapolis Finntown!

For FACA to continue, we need two of you to join the remaining four board members (Kathy Jorgensen, Teresa Tjepkes, Janie Ahola and Pam Rahkola). We realize that everyone has other lives/responsibilities. We do, as well. The time commitment really isn't all that great. Other FACA members help with events. The more people involved, the easier it is to spread the tasks around. The board meets once a month, usually the week of the program. Otherwise, we communicate through email.

Again, please step up and volunteer to join our board. This is a critical year for FACA. We are a good, hard-working group, but we do need help to ensure that FACA continues. Janie Ahola's and Teresa Tjepke's terms will expire next year. *Kiitos* for your consideration.

News from SISU—The Finnish Language & Culture Seminar

***July 29 to August 4, 2018
at the University of Minnesota, Duluth***

SISU is pleased to announce that our seminar has received two grants. Kipinä Kerho/Finn Spark and Suomi Seura/Finland Society will be providing extra funding for this year's seminar.

The SISU Finnish Language & Culture Seminar provides a unique opportunity for adults of all ages and backgrounds to study the Finnish language with highly qualified, native speakers of Finnish. The seminar consists of 25–30 hours of informal, interactive Finnish language study plus presentations and other activities. Instruction is offered at three levels; enrollment is limited to 30. Spaces remain in this year's seminar (a few days prior to the first registration due date).

The seminar fee is \$450 plus \$20 membership; on-campus housing (dormitory/shared room) and food service (UMD Dining Center or arranged), \$300; single room supplement, \$150.

For additional information, questions, and registration forms, please contact kaisa@eurekanet.com, or telephone 740-592-1157. Visit our Facebook page: SISU Finnish Language & Culture Seminar.

Tervetuloa! Welcome, new FACA members!

**Janet Johnson—Vadnais Heights
Donna and Jon Clark—Minneapolis**

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 _____

April Board Notes

By Teresa Tjepkes



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

The April 17, 2018, FACA board meeting was called to order by Vice President/Program Chair Kathy Jorgensen at 5:45 p.m. at the Wilder Center in St. Paul. Also present: Janie Ahola, Teresa Tjepkes, Pam Rahkola and Urho Rahkola.

The February and March 2018 meeting minutes were read and approved.

Janie reported the current balance. She met with Judy Mikkola (CPA) on March 29 to audit the FACA books for 2017; no discrepancies were found. On April 4 she mailed \$500 for the Salolampi scholarships by FACA, which included the final \$100 from the Bette Ruskanen estate sale.

Kathy updated the board on upcoming and prospective programs.

The board decided to ask attendees to let us know if they don't want to have their photo taken for the newsletter or website; such requests will be honored.

Pam will ask for more Baking Day volunteers at the April program and is still recruiting for the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. Pam explained the dress code for the café. Kaarina Kotkavuori will communicate with volunteers regarding the dress code for the cultural exhibit.

Pam will announce at the May program that we need two new volunteers to serve on the board for three-year terms, one for an open board member position that was not filled in 2017, and the other to replace Kaarina Kotkavuori who decided to retire early.

Plans for May program, important announcements and summer board activities were discussed.

The next meeting of the board will be Wednesday, May 16, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. at the Wilder Center (Room 2310) in St. Paul.

National Sauna Day

by Marlin Bjornrud

Sisu Heritage, Inc. of Embarrass, Minn., will host its annual "National Sauna Day" on Saturday, June 2. The celebration will take place on the grounds of the Nelmark Homestead Museum, at the corner of Highway 21 and East Salo Road. From 9 a.m.–4 p.m. you can spend time shopping, browsing the exhibits and visiting with friends.

All of the log buildings on the property will be open, and you might even be able to take a sauna! A lineup of mobile saunas will also be on-site to tour.

Food will be served most of the day. There will be music, a boot-throwing competition and much more.

Come to Embarrass and celebrate the sauna with us!

Note: Photos of last year's Sauna Day can be seen on our website, sisuheritage.org.

Opi Books Order Form

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mobile / Phone _____

Email _____

Opi, Vol. 1 Quantity _____ @ \$13 (postage included)

Opi, Vol. 2 Quantity _____ @ \$13 (postage included)

Total \$ _____

Please enclose check or money order made out to **The Salolampi Foundation**. Your purchase contributes \$10 directly to the Salolampi Language Village Scholarship Fund.

Mail to:

Joanne Bergman, Director
The Salolampi Foundation
445 Wacouta St., Unit 311
St. Paul, MN 55101

Thank You, 2018 Baking Day Volunteers!

By Pam Rahkola

Yet another Baking Day was successfully completed on Saturday, April 28. Once again, we had a great group of volunteers and finished up in record time, mainly due to our two new “efficiency experts” John Jorgensen and Stan Davis, who stepped in and tweaked our processes. We again started at 7:30 a.m., but had everything cleaned-up/packed-up by 1:30 p.m., versus our usual departure time goal of 3 p.m. It was amazing!

Thanks much to the following people:

To Kathy Jackson and Linda Davis for mixing cakes, while Kathy Jorgensen and Bonnie Devorak prepared the cake pans. Renee Hill and Marcia Chess mixed cookies and passed the dough off to “cookie rollers” Delores Salin, Linda Mehle-School, Joanne Bergman, and Emily Itkonen. Edie Boos and David Jorgensen took care of the *korvapuusti* preparation. This year’s *piirakkas* crew consisted of Jeanne Swope, Kendra Kauppi, Erin Russ and Mary Hanf. Junelle Bernard again cooked the *riisi puuro*. Thanks much to the packaging crew of Janie Ahola, Dan Salin and Urho Rahkola. Huge thank-yous to Kathryn Branson for once again “manning” the ovens, and to Gene Ollila for handling the onerous task of dish-washing. Many of the people named above completed one task, then switched over to another, wherever help was needed.

We produced a lot in this time: 64 cakes, about 120 dozen lemon cookies, and 33 dozen *korvapuusti*, to be sold at our Festival of Nations, Finnish Café booth. Plus, 22 dozen *piirakkas* were made and will be for sale as a FACA fundraiser at our May 18 FACA program. Festival of Nations leftovers will also be for sale that night.

View the Baking Day photos at
<https://kjorgensen.smugmug.com/Suomi-Finland/FACA-Programs-2017-2018/Apr-2018-FON-Baking-Day/>

Thanks much to everyone for a great job well done!
Kiitoksia paljon!

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.

***Naiskuoroleiri* (Women’s Choir Camp)**

— A Treble Choir Retreat

By Eeva Savolainen

Naiskuoroleiri, A Treble Choir Retreat, is intended for singers interested in Finnish music, language and culture, who have some previous choral experience. Instructors are Eeva Savolainen, founder of the Suomi100 Chorus, and Riikka Pietiläinen-Caffrey, visiting professor at Whitman College, Wash. The teaching language is English.

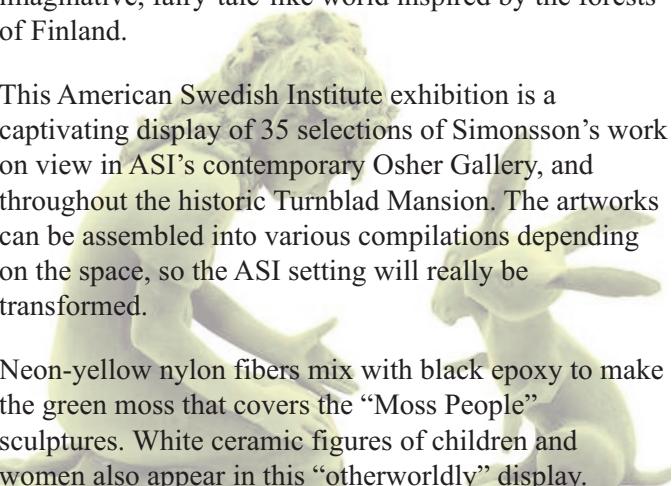
The retreat is July 13–15 at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis. You will learn songs of many genres and healthy vocal technique. The retreat also includes a session of Soma-yoga and movement, taught by Karen Ba, to connect our voices with our bodies and minds.

Cost is \$85 and registration deadline is May 31. For more information, go to
<http://finnsource.org/blog/naiskuoroleiri/> and
<http://finnsource.org/event/finnish-treble-choir-retreat-in-minneapolis/>

Kim Simonsson’s “Moss People” on Exhibit at ASI

Sculptor Kim Simonsson of Fiskars, Finland, creates innocent yet beguiling life-sized figures of children and animals in “moss-covered” ceramics. They often appear in natural settings that lead the viewer into an imaginative, fairy-tale-like world inspired by the forests of Finland.

This American Swedish Institute exhibition is a captivating display of 35 selections of Simonsson’s work on view in ASI’s contemporary Osher Gallery, and throughout the historic Turnblad Mansion. The artworks can be assembled into various compilations depending on the space, so the ASI setting will really be transformed.



Neon-yellow nylon fibers mix with black epoxy to make the green moss that covers the “Moss People” sculptures. White ceramic figures of children and women also appear in this “otherworldly” display. Simonsson was awarded the 2012 William Thuring Prize and the 2004 Young Artist Award in Finland. This is his first Midwest USA exhibition. This exhibit will continue through July 15. American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis. Museum admission applies. Visit: <https://www.asimn.org/exhibitions-collections/exhibitions/fantastical-worlds-kim-simonsson>.

April Program Recap: Finntown—A Window into a Unique Minneapolis Community

By Kathy Jorgensen

Presenters were Joan Miina Dwyer, John Jussi Hanson, and Mark Skilats Lahtinen, members of the Finnish Genealogy Group (FGG). They gave us a “guided tour” of the historical life and culture of Finntown in North Minneapolis through pictures and stories. More than 100 FACA and FGG members and friends of Finntown attended on the beautiful spring evening. Each of the speakers has strong personal connections to Finntown, as do many of our members. John invited us to recall favorite memories of places and smells, growing up experiences such as riding the street cars, ice skating on Bassett Creek, games of pull-away, golfing, skiing, sliding in Wirth Park and smelling the burning leaves in the fall.

We learned that...

- There were three waves of immigration: (1) great Laestadian migration 1864–1895 due to famine and religion; (2) Russification–Exodus after 1898 when Russia took away a lot of independence from Finland; and (3) Civil War in 1918, when many in Finland were disenchanted and radicalized.
- Development of Finntown businesses depended on the Finns who lived and worked there: Munsingwear (largest seller of underwear in the US for a time!); Leef Bros. Laundry (largest independently-owned laundry in the Midwest); Fruen’s Mill; Glenwood and Inglewood spring water.
- Abundant and progressive community services developed: on-site child care, health services, English and sewing classes, to name a few. Arts, choirs, music and Finn Hall Theatre thrived in the early Finntown culture.
- Religious life was important. Many individual churches were established, owing to a lot of varying ideas about religion.
- Education was always a priority.
- Finnish-American women were involved in social movements.
- The area’s relationship to farming regions flourished through the co-ops.
- Labor and workers movements happened here. Of the four U.S. union strikes by coal workers in 1934, the most successful was in Minneapolis.
- Military. There was strong support for the wars affecting Finland and the U.S. Cokato’s Helping Hand raised \$150,000 for Finland during World War II.

I can’t do justice to the rich volume of information shared. Thanks, John, Joan and Mark!

Fundraising for Finnish Solo Piano Music Recording

Gail Olszewski needs the Finnish communities’ help in raising enough funds to record a selection of late 19th–20th century Finnish solo piano music. Although Gail received a grant from the Finlandia Foundation, it covers only a portion of the cost; and she would be extremely grateful for any support we can contribute.

In Gail’s words, “I have been a working musician practically my entire adult life, playing keyboard music of all musical styles with many different people and groups. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have been able to make a living doing something I love, working with wonderful colleagues. You can read more about me on my website, <https://uk.gofundme.com/finnish-solo-piano-music-recording>.



“I want to record a selection of late 19th–20th century Finnish solo piano music by Jean Sibelius, Oskar Merikanto, Selim Palmgren, Ilmari Hannikainen, Erkki Melartin, Leevi Madetoja and Heino Kaski on an 1877 Blüthner grand piano from The Frederick Collection in Ashburnham, Mass. (<http://www.frederickcollection.org>). This is wonderful music that I’ve played for many years and deserves to be heard by a wider audience. I want to combine my commitment to presenting good music not often heard with performing it on an instrument of the period, so listeners can get some idea of the sound of the piano the composer knew.

“This will be a high-quality professional recording, edited by engineer Christopher Greenleaf. The recording will be made at Ashburnham Community Church in Ashburnham, Mass., an excellent acoustical space that will make the music and instrument come alive. I need funds for fees for Christopher, a producer and a digital editor, lodging, piano rental, tuning and moving, venue rental, and travel expenses. I intend to complete the recording by Fall 2018.”

HYPERLINK <https://uk.gofundme.com/finnish-solo-piano-music-recording>

May-June 2018 Calendar

Note: Check for new summer events at finnfaca.org.
Send your items to facaeditor@gmail.com.

May 10. "Smart Water" and Its High-Tech Applications. Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Minnesota is teaming up with Finnish-owned Uponor USA, to host a hands-on workshop to learn about "smart" or "intelligent" water. Experts will talk about "Phyn," an application to monitor water systems that won the 2018 Consumer Electronics Show Innovation Award in both the Smart Home and Tech for a Better World categories. Uponor USA, 5925 148th Ave. West, Apple Valley, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m., including lunch. \$30 includes lunch and materials. Registration deadline: end of day, May 8. After that, \$40 for late registration and walk-ins. Event contact: Steve Riedel, steve.riedel@state.mn.us or 651-259-7494.

May 18. May Program and FACA Annual Meeting. International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul (across from the Fairgrounds), 7 p.m.

May 19. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. Annual election of officers; sharing summer plans; summer event plans in motion. Plymouth Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m.

May 19–25. Salolampi: May Adult Week. More information: concordialanguagevillages.org or salolampi.org.

May 26. The Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society Holds Its Annual Spring Celebration. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at Temperance Corner, 3 miles north of Cokato on County Road 3 (off US Highway 12). Program begins at noon in the Temperance Hall. More information: heidibharveyb@gmail.com.

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. A lineup of mobile saunas will be present. See page 4.

June 8–9. Nisswa Stamman. Scandinavian Festival. The 19th annual Scandinavian folk music and dance festival takes place on Friday and Saturday at the Pioneer Village. Scandinavian performers from Norway and Sweden as well as the U.S. play at this festival on several stages. Saturday's activities include a fiddlers' parade, all-day folk music, dancing, dance workshops, ethnic foods, children's tent with activities, and wandering musicians. One-hundred-fifty traditional musicians! More information: www.nisswastamman.org or call 218-764-2994.

June 15–24. Soiva International Music Camp.

Finlandia Foundation National offers a week of music study and cultural exchange opportunities for students ages 11–19. More information: Soiva Chair Dennis Anderson, soiva2018@yahoo.com or 218-251-0164; Soiva website, <https://finlandiafoundation.org/soiva-music-camp/>.

June 22–23. 41st Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst and Midwest Viking Festival. Hjemkomst Center, Moorhead, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. The featured country this year is Sweden—Swedish music, food, and art will be front and center (plus other Nordic nations, of course!) See the Viking ship, the Hopperstad Stave Church, and participate in great activities. More information: <http://www.nordiccultureclubs.org/2018-festival.html> (more information will be added as the festival approaches).

June 23. Midsummer at Temperance Corner. Three miles north of Cokato on County Road 3 (off U.S. Highway 12). 6:30 p.m., "Letters to Father Jacob" video, 7:30 p.m. potluck desserts, and *kokko* at sundown. More information at heidibharveyb@gmail.com.

June 24–29. FinnFest USA 2018 in Tampere, Finland. You can still register, but you will need to find your own accommodations for the fest. Explore the history, landscape and stories of the Häme region. Visits to destinations around the area. Presentations about both the past and present. Registration and more information: <https://finnfest.us/>

Aug. 24. Deadline for articles and calendar items for the September Uutiset. Send to facaeditor@gmail.com.

Sept. 21. Next FACA program. International Institute of Minnesota. 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul (across from the Fairgrounds). 7 p.m.

CONTACT THE GROUP COORDINATORS TO CONFIRM TIME AND PLACE DURING THE SUMMER.

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.



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*

Pieniä Paloja—Short news items

- **Serving coffee and goodies in April** were Marlene Banttari, Edie Boos, Phyllis Kiihn and Jeanne Swope.
- **To honor their 100-year anniversaries of independence, the governments of Finland and Estonia are meeting jointly in Tallinn.** Estonia marked its centenary on February 24 this year, while Finland celebrated on December 6, 2017. The meeting will address questions of mutual importance to both countries, such as ambitious transport links, digital connections, language and cultural issues, and common EU-related agenda items.
- **Repair work on rail lines between Helsinki and Turku** will increase traveling times of long-distance trains this summer. From June 18 to August 12, trains on the Helsinki-Turku route will be running behind the usual schedule. Eighty percent of the rail connection between Helsinki and Turku has just one track; the poor condition of the track has caused problems with punctuality. The coastal railroad is one the busiest routes in Finland. The repairs will take place between Salo and Kirkkonummi.

Baking Day for Festival of Nations Finnish Cafe



L-r: Pam Rahkola, Emily Itkonen, Kathryn Branson, Urho Rahkola, Joanne Bergman and Linda Mehle-School.

See more Baking Day photos at
<https://kjorgensen.smugmug.com/Suomi-Finland/FACA-Programs-2017-2018/Apr-2018-FON-Baking-Day/>