



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2016

“The Way She Told Her Story”

Diane Jarvenpa

7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16
**International Institute
of Minnesota**
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
(Across from Fairgrounds)

**For our first program of 2016-2017,
third-generation Finnish American
Diane Jarvenpa will speak about
her new video, “The Way She Told
Her Story,” relating memories of her
Finnish women ancestors.**

She received a Finlandia Foundation grant to work with a filmmaker on this project, which combines her poems and music into the project. She will also read from her poetry manuscript of the same name, forthcoming from New Rivers Press in 2017, and talk about her research and writing about women ancestors in her family and the experiences of Finnish women immigrants and their descendants. A new poetry book, “Swift, Bright Drift”, has been published by Red Dragonfly Press this year. She dedicated the latter book to her father Oliver Jarvenpa, a conservationist and former member of FACA.

Diane Jarvenpa is also the author of “Divining the Landscape” (New Rivers Press), “Ancient in poetry. Wonders, the Modern World” (Red



Dragonfly Press) and “The Tender Wild Things” (New Rivers Press) which received the Midwest Independent Publishers Association book award. She has received artist initiative and fellowship grants in writing from the Minnesota State Arts Board. She is a singer/songwriter who has recorded six CDs under the name Diane Jarvi. Her most recent Finnish music recording is “Bittersweet”.

**For more information about Diane, see
dianejarvi.com After the program, we will have
a coffee, refreshments and time for conversation.**

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FACA 3015-2016 B

President's Message

Welcome to a new season and new year of stimulating and educational FACA programs! I hope that all of you had a healthy and happy summer.

Some first signs of fall: our earlier sunsets and some leaves in the boundary waters starting to turn colors. We had a most wonderful trip there with our son and his brother-w from Germany (who had never fished before). He caught and ate walleyes for the first time, with a bonus of few mosquitoes and a full moon rising across the lake on a clear night.

We had sad news when our graphic designer, Beth Jarvis, passed earlier this summer. She has not been replaced yet, so Jeanne Swope is doing extra work. If you or someone you know may be interested, please call Jeanne or me. See phone and email addresses on this page.

We also need two more directors on our board. Can four of us can speak for all? Or should our programs also be membership meetings for voting concerns up or down, perhaps with some prior initiative by the board? I was told this is the way "it used to be."

In January, Finland 100 begins the observance of 100 years of Finland's independence. Planning has begun, led by FinnSource, Finlandia Foundation, Finnish-American Chamber of Commerce TC and other groups. We would like to involve as many people as possible to help with the planning. There will be music, lectures and celebrations.

Our September program will be hosted by the board members and should be stimulating with Diane Jarvenpa's presentation. See the August Board Notes to see some important issues we need to discuss at the September program.

Kiitos paljon, *Gene Ollila*

Two New Board Members Needed

The nominating committee of Richard Harju and Urho Rahkola want to thank members for taking our calls and trying to help us get at least two candidates for the FACA board of directors.

Since we were not able to get two candidates in time for the May meeting, we will continue to try to find candidates in time for the September meeting. If you are interested or know of someone who "may be interested, please contact one of us or any of the board members. You can find board members' contact information on this page. Urho can be reached at rahkola.urho@comcast.net or (651) 429-3319, and Richard can be reached at rharju@yahoo.com or at (612) 719-4965.

We also want to thank outgoing members Ruth Erkkila and John Rova for their contributions while serving on the FACA board.



Board Notes



The FACA Board earlier this year. Front: Gene Ollila. Back L-R: Ruth Erkkila, John Rova, Phillip Erickson, Dennis Halme, Janie Ahola.

June 2016 Board Notes

Present: Gene Ollila, Dennis Halme, Janie Ahola, John Rova and Phillip Erickson. Ruth Erkkila excused. Bud Berry also attended.

Gene Ollila opened the June 16 board meeting at 12:06 p.m. the minutes of the previous meeting were approved, and the treasurer reported our current balance. The board discussed coffee setup and refreshment volunteers for scheduled FACA meetings. The board will provide refreshments for the September meeting.

The board is presently short two members. It's important to have a full board to carry out all functions. If you are interested in serving as a board member, please contact any board member.

Old business items included Festival of Nations (no final financial report yet) and FinnSource planning for the 100-year celebration of Finland's independence. FACA has not named our facilitator for this initiative.

New business included discussions of programs for 2016-2017, suggestions for speakers, volunteers for coffee time after programs, climate problems with January programs and board meetings times/locations.

Submitted by adjunct secretary Bud Berry.

August 2016 Board Notes

President Gene Ollila called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. on August 13 in the Finnish Bistro. Attending: Janie Ahola, Dennis Halme, Phillip Erickson and Gene Ollila. Minutes from the previous board meeting in June were not yet

available. We began with a rosy treasurer's report, showing a higher balance than recent years. We are maintaining our membership, the largest single source of income.

We discussed setting our board meeting dates and all preferred daytime meetings, so 10 a.m. was chosen, with meeting sites potentially varied. This could change if new board members were employed during the day.

We discussed Festival of Nations participation, and will present issues re this at the September program. We also discussed FinnSource and Finland 100 relating to events scheduled for 2017, which is Finland's centenary.

We discussed whether to eliminate the January program or even consider alternate month's programs. The group did not favor an alternate month schedule, but saw some economic advantages in skipping one month's program.

Various ideas for speakers and performers were discussed. We also looked forward to the later fall Twin Cities events: Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast (Tuesday before Thanksgiving) featuring Finland, Finnish Independence Day and Joulou – A Magical Finnish Christmas.

Top concerns are to fill the two vacant board positions and find a second person to join Jeanne Swope in editing and publishing the Uutiset,

The meeting ended at 1:07 p.m. Next board meeting: Keys Cafe, 1682 Lexington Ave. N. (Lexington and Larpenteur), Roseville; September 13, 11 a.m.

Submitted by Gene Ollila

Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Library

Corner of Como and Carter Ave.

St. Paul

Everyone is welcome.

For more information, please call
Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

In Memorium



Beth Jarvis, long-time designer of *Uutiset*

Beth Jarvis, long time graphic designer for the FACA newsletter, passed away suddenly on Thursday, June 16. Beth has been doing the graphic design for the newsletter since 2003 and contributed artistry and journalistic standards.

Beth was born on April 22, 1952, to Art and Rose Jarvis of Kettle River. A graduate of Barnum High School, Beth earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Minnesota. Beth combined her writing talents with her love of gardening and earned a master's degree in horticulture in 1992. Beth was employed by the University of Minnesota Extension Service as project coordinator where she also trained Master Gardeners.

Beth was very proud of her Finnish heritage. She learned the language, traveled to Finland (and other countries) and was always ready to learn more. Beth was an avid reader and enjoyed gardening, cooking, traveling and genealogy.

Beth is survived by her brother, Sid (Deb) of Duluth; nephew, Ben (Kirstin) of Stillwater; niece, Rebecca (Greg Lohman) of Minneapolis; nephew, Daniel of Duluth; and numerous family and friends.

Volunteers needed to help Salolampi scholarship Phonathon in September

The Salolampi Foundation's Scholarship Appeal will be held Tuesday through Thursday Sept. 27 to 29. We need volunteers the call center downtown Minneapolis or to call from their own homes; we also need people to help with the paperwork that is a part of this fundraiser.

For three years straight, village enrollment has increased, according to Amy (Iida) Tervola Hultberg, Dean of Salolampi. There were 125 youth at the summer program this year, where they they enjoyed Finnish food, singing, crafts and learning the Finnish language. A staff of qualified teachers, counselors and cooks, including seven from Finland, fostered an authentic Finnish experience for the villagers. Going to Salolampi was almost like being in Finland.

Iida has been instrumental in executing a new marketing program, and it's getting results. This summer, campers came from over 20 states and Canada. Interestingly enough, approximately 60 percent of the villagers did not have a Finnish background. There is a renewed interest in learning the Finnish language.

The mission of the Salolampi Foundation is to support the Salolampi Language Village. The way we do this is to give scholarships that meet 30 percent of the tuition set by Concordia. We are once again appealing to everyone to donate funds as generously as possible during this campaign. The InFaith Community Foundations donates telephone usage in their headquarters for three evenings. This wonderful organization has supported our efforts for more than a decade. We need volunteers to use these phones or to call from home so we can reach as many people as possible to donate to this worthy cause. Please volunteer.

Also, please welcome a call from one of our dedicated volunteers who call you either from InFaith Community Foundation or from their own homes.

If you have question or want to volunteer to help us in this important scholarship appeal, please contact Ruthann Swanson at Ruthann@ars-services.com (612) 788-3905, Linda Davis at ldavismn@hotmail.com (763) 420-3237 or Kaarina Kotkavuori, (651) 646-7783.

A Finn from “An Uncommon Place”

Gary Rantala recalled Embarrass in the old days

Recap of May Program

By Dennis Halme

At the May program, Gary Rantala from Embarrass spoke about “the History of an Uncommon Place.”

He introduced himself and explained his use of a wheel chair: He contracted polio during his childhood with lasting neurological damage that left him unable to use his legs. He faced this situation with Finnish *sisu*, participating successfully in his high school track team as a discus thrower. After high school, he attended the University of Minnesota (degrees in horticultural science and agricultural education).

He owned and operated a greenhouse and floral business for 42 years and taught vocational agriculture at Cherry High School for 30 years, quite an impressive list of accomplishments! He said his illness had taught him a great deal about life and how to live it with *sisu*, love and empathy.

He filled his program with details about his family and about the first residents of Embarrass from Finland. They brought farming and building methods that were used in Finland. They built traditional buildings from the natural resources at hand (mainly timber), building log structures for houses, saunas and barns, granaries, etc. They built community centers such as churches and halls (again, mostly out of logs to begin with) where they practiced their faith and political beliefs. They had large families (as many as 16-17 children). Children were loved and cared for but were also important and needed to help with all the work involved in making a living on these farms.

Gary was born into this community in 1944 and knew some of the earliest settlers. He mentioned a man who had enough land to sell produce to



A polio survivor, Gary learned how to overcome difficulty with unbreakable *sisu*, the legendary stubbornness of the Finns who settled at Embarrass.

both the “red” and “white” cooperatives. He mentioned that some of the early residents of the leftist persuasion had left for (Soviet) Karelia (before his time).

He talked about how Embarrass came to be recognized as the site of many unique log structures -- well-preserved, still in existence. Some individual residents saw the value of these cultural artifacts and begun work on organizing a program of preservation and recognition. Margaret Kinnunen was one of the founders and leaders of the group that adopted the name *Sisu* Heritage Foundation. This group has succeeded in getting seven places in the Embarrass area designated as National Historic Sites.

Gary showed some short video clips of buildings and farms, including the Seitaniemi housebarn farm and the Hanka farm. It was an interesting, rambling, entertaining program. One detail I will remember is Bill Seitaniemi in the video saying with a big grin, “*Sisu* is stubbornness beyond reason.” I haven’t visited Embarrass recently, but I think it will be even more interesting to me after hearing Gary’s talk!

Festival of Nations

Kiitos to energetic volunteers who made our Kalevala exhibit a creative success

By **Kaarina Kotkavuori**

I want to thank all the volunteers who helped in our Finnish Cultural Exhibit booth at the Festival of Nations and the people who worked with energy and imagination to create it.

Janie Ahola was wonderfully creative in creating the Kalevala exhibit. Dawn Kinnunen supplied so many great animal hats. Jeanne Swope, Janie, Dawn and Gil did a lot of research and supplied the animal folk tales that the visiting students and adults enjoyed. Gil constructed the animal wheel!

In addition to creating an interesting booth, many volunteers shared their time and interest during the Festival: Janie Ahola, Marlene Banttari, Bud Berry, Edie Boos, Marcia Chess, Linda Davis, Ruth Erkkila, Phillip Erickson, Mary Hanf, Mike Fredrickson, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Judy Mikkola, Gene Ollila, Andreas Ostenso, John Rova, Dan and Delores Salin and Jeanne Swope. Donna Erickson provided vital information that we used in the Kalevala side of the booth. Kathy Jackson provided us with our special guest - Norman the bear (who sat in the corner of the booth). Thank you!

There was a sad note this year. We missed Kathy Chambless, an all around volunteer at FACA events, who volunteered every year in the exhibit booth and had a real talent for engaging the children and kindling their interest in the stories and crafts.

I am looking forward to hearing what next year's Festival of Nations theme will be. I hope everyone who volunteered will come again and those who have not yet joined in the fun will consider doing so next year.

Book Review/ Folk Songs and Kantele



Kantele minstrel Lani is back with new book of 100 songs

Review by **Constance Makela**

Lani Harju Thompson's newest music book, *I Sing to You: 100 Finnish Folk Songs and Tunes with Sing-able English Lyrics*. She is the author of six music books, five of which are books relating to the Finnish national instrument, the kantele. In *100 Songs*, most tunes can be played on the kantele, but the focus of the book is Finnish folk music. A wonderful feature of the book is that the Finnish lyrics have been translated into English. Those of us who don't speak Finnish can now know what the lyrics of the Finnish tunes mean.

I first became aware of Lani Thompson when I decided, three years ago on my birthday, to learn to play the kantele. With research, I found Lani Thompson's books, which I've used since then to guide me. Kantele players from Finland, Minnesota and other parts of the country shared tips and assisted me. And with one-on-one lessons from kantele musician Diane Jarvi, I am learning to play the instrument of my heritage.

I don't know how many FACA members have longed to learn this instrument, but perhaps reading about Lani and the books she's written for those wishing to learn how to play would be just the impetus they need to get started. Read about Lani at kantelemusic.com/.

Events Calendar

Sept. 10 Finn Hall goes to the Nordic Music Festival! Playing at 11:20 a.m. and again at 12:30 p.m. Lion's Park , 1505 82nd Street, in Victoria, Minnesota. The Nordic Music Festival is a fun event for the whole family with continuous music throughout the afternoon, Scandinavian foods available for purchase, and Nordic artisans selling their art and crafts. For more Finn Hall info: finnhall.com

Sept. 16 Monthly FACA program. International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul, 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 23 Deadline for October Uutiset. Send your items to facaeditor@gmail.com by midnight on Friday.

Sept. 23 Aallotar (Sara Pajunen and Teija Niku) at The Warming House (with Red Tail Ring). 4001 Bryant Ave.S., Minneapolis. For more info: aallotarmusic.com

Sept. 24 (confirm DATE) Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota meeting. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth, 9:30 a.m. (See website for driving directions and other information: <http://www.minnesotafinnish.org>. Select Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota.)

Sept. 24 Aallotar (Sara Pajunen and Teija Niku) at Karpeles Manuscript Museum, 902 E 1st St Duluth, Minnesota 55805 For more info: Karpeles Manuscript Library Museum on Facebook.

Sept. 25–Oct. 9 The 29th annual **Leiv Eriksson International Festival (L.E.I.F.)**. A fall celebration based at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 E. 21st St. Minneapolis. A mostly musical festival with extraordinary performers. Mindekirken is located near E. Franklin & 10th Ave S, just south of I-94. Parking lots on north and west sides—handicap access at canopy. Building a cultural bridge between today's Nordic countries and the United States. For schedule and much more information: mindekirken.org or leifmn.org.

Sept. 25-Oct. 1 Aallotar (Sara Pajunen and Teija Niku) participating in **Beethoven and Banjos**, Upper Peninsula's annual cross-genre annual festival. Second annual week-long collaboration between members of Decoda (Carnegie Hall's affiliate ensemble) and a folk ensemble creating and performing music together in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For more info: beethovenandbanjos.org

Oct. 21 Monthly FACA program. International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul, 7:00 p.m.

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

Thursdays. Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers. St. Sahag Armenian Church, 203 N. Howell St., St. Paul, 7:00 p.m. The group does not meet during holidays. New members welcome. Call Dan Salin (763) 544-1441.

Fridays. Keskustelutunti. Finlanders at the U of M conversation hour, 12:00-1:00 p.m.. Bordertown Coffee, 315 16th Ave. S.E., Minneapolis. For more information or to check

FACA Membership

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

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Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.
dedicated to exploring and preserving
Finnish and Finnish-American heritage.
www.finnfaca.org

Pieniä Paloja

(Little Pieces)

- **Police in eastern Finland plan to begin issuing warnings to people using their mobile phones while riding their bicycles**
The crackdown was prompted by an increasing number of bikers riding around while texting or playing the popular game Pokemon Go. While no serious accidents have yet been attributed to distracted cyclists in the area, there have been a few close calls, according to police. One example is a video of a young cyclist who was very nearly hit by a car while tapping on his smartphone near Kuopio. Cyclists riding with a phone dangling in their fingers will be stopped and warned. *Yle.*
- **Finland's last four dolphins have been secretly transferred from Tampere's Särkänniemi Amusement Park** to the Attica Zoological Park in Spata, about 20 km northeast of Athens, Greece. stirring protests about both the operation and its timing. The dolphins were being transferred as fireworks were going off in Tampere. There also are concerns about the dolphins' well-being,

as the Attica Zoological Park has previously been criticized by animal rights activists for a lack of food and medicine for dolphins.

*Helsingin Sanomat,
Iltalehti, Iltä-Sanomat, Yle News*

- **Efforts to change city plans in Helsinki's Central Park in order to convert parts of the park into new housing have riled local residents and Green politicians.**
Despite active lobbying and protests, city planners appear to be standing their ground. The Helsinki City Council is scheduled to consider the master plan draft in October 2016. Helsinki's Central Park (Keskuspuisto) stretches ten kilometres north of the city center, Töölönlahti Bay, to the Vantaanjoki River. Protesters formed a human chain that extended from the Helsinki districts of Laakso to Pirkkola this week to show their opposition. *Yle*