



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

April/Huhtikuu 2009

### **Finnish Literature Today** **Nina Tikkanen**

Our April program will feature Nina Tikkanen, a Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Scholar at the University of Minnesota. She will guide our look at current Finnish literature, both prose and poetry, including translations into English.

Ms. Tikkanen earned her Bachelor's Degree in Literature in 2007 from the University of Jyväskylä where she's a master's degree student pursuing a literature major and Finnish and education minor.

This year at the University of Minnesota, she is the Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistant in the second year of a program sponsored by CIMO/Finnish Ministry of Education and the Finnish Fulbright Commission. She will return to the University of Jyväskylä to continue her studies and complete her degree by the end of next (academic) year.

Nina Tikkanen was born in small town in central Finland and lives in Jyväskylä, also in central Finland. She wants to teach in the future, but has always been interested in translating, and hopes that her English minor will help her to pursue that.



#### **APRIL FACCA PROGRAM**

**Nina Tikkanen**  
**Finnish Literature**  
**Friday, April 17**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**International Institute**  
**1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*If you need transportation, call*  
*Marianne Wargelin*  
*at 612-374-2718*

For our program, she will survey Finnish literature now—what, if any, specific themes are central, and what Finns read. Finns of course read a lot of foreign/translated literature, too. For example, James Patterson and Jodi Picoult are widely read in Finland.

She will talk about some of the many authors in Finland today. Among the most prominent are Sofi Oksanen, last year's Finlandia (similar to the National Book Award) winner, who writes about the recent history of Estonia in connection to Finland/Finns; Bo Carpelan; Kjell Westö; Pirkko Saisio; Anna-Leena Härkönen.

## FACA 2008–2009 Board of Directors

President:

**Kaarina Kotkavuori**  
(651) 646-7783  
kaalij53@yahoo.com

Vice President/Program Chair:

**Jeanne Swope**  
(612) 827-6773  
swope002@umn.edu

Secretary:

**Stella Arola**  
(763) 537-0559  
hsarola@msn.com

Treasurer/Publicity:

**Andreas Ostenso**  
(651) 646-9604  
tostenso@yahoo.com

Hospitality/Special Activities:

**Jane Olson**  
(651) 436-2724  
jane52357@yahoo.com

Special Events:

**Ruth Wilkman**  
(651) 690.2981  
ruth.wilkman@state.mn.us

## FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:

**Mary Belanger**  
mary.belanger@dctc.edu  
(218) 839-1566

Graphic Design:

**Beth Jarvis**  
(763) 536-9561  
bethjarvi@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

**Kaarina Kotkavuori, Stella  
Arola, Jeanne Swope, Joan  
Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen, Erin  
Belanger**

Membership/Mailing:

**Urho and Pam Rahkola**  
rahkola.urho@comcast.net.  
(651) 429-3319

## President's Message

by *Kaarina Kotkavuori*



Spring has finally arrived, and some days it almost feels like spring.

I thank everyone who came to the March program to welcome Dr. Phillip Johnson, President of Finlandia University. He shared a lot of interesting information about the school. I had not realized that it is now a four year institution and that the student ratio is 60% women and 40% men. Michigan Tech, nearby, is 40% women and 60% men. Interesting odds. I was glad to hear how the school is providing opportunities for area high school graduates to attend the university. I told Dr. Johnson that I will be purchasing a sweatshirt to advertise the school.

I am looking forward to our next adventure—a café at the Festival of Nations. At our April program, Junelle Bernard will be handing out entry tickets to everyone who has signed up to work. The Finnish folk dance group, Kisarit will be performing on Saturday during the festival. I will have additional information at the April program.

Last month I attended Finnish movie night at Christ Church Lutheran. The film "Upswing" was very good. I hope to be able to see it again. The film April 19, is an action film called "Raid". The cost is \$5.00 and show time is 6:00 p.m. The film that is being offered in May is "Pelican Man". This film is offered free of charge and is appropriate for everyone, especially children. Please invite your friends, join us for a movie and popcorn. The FACA board members have talked about having a Finnish feature length film one of the nights of our program. If you have any thoughts on this, please let us know.

I am glad to say that we have a few volunteers lined up for the Fargo Nordic Festival in June. I will be able to give more details regarding our responsibilities and possibilities of accommodations in the May newsletter. Please consider this event as a part of your summer plans, as we need a few more volunteers.

Our April program looks to be very interesting. Please come, let us have coffee together. See you soon. *Tervetuloa.*

## Get the FACA newsletter electronically!

The *Utiset* e-newsletter is fast, convenient, and costs FACA less to produce and distribute. E-mail Andreas Ostenso at [tostenso@yahoo.com](mailto:tostenso@yahoo.com) with questions.

## Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



**L-R Stella Arola, Jeanne Swope, Andreas Ostenso, Ruth Wilkman, Kaarina Kotkavuori, and Jane Olson**

The Board met at the home of Kaarina Kotkavuori on March 17th.

The treasurer's report and the secretary's minutes were approved.

Various program possibilities were suggested by our Program Chair and were discussed. The April program will be presented by Nina Tikkanen, University of Minnesota, on Finnish literature. The May program will be presented by JoAnn Hanson on Petrell Hall.

President Kaarina reported on the following: that the movies being presented at Christ Church Lutheran on the third Sundays of the month are well worth attending; we have instructed the *Salolampi* Board that our \$500 scholarship should be awarded to a four-week student; that the planning for the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations is well underway under Junelle Bernard's leadership; and that we are looking for two new board members (one of our current board is retiring).

The next board meeting will be at Kaarina Kotkavuori's home on April 14th.

## Festival of Nations Café

*By Junelle Bernard*

The Festival of Nations (April 30–May 3 at RiverCentre) is fast approaching and we are busy making preparations. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help at Baking Day and at the Festival. We probably have enough helpers to prepare our cookies, cakes and *piirakka* at Baking Day on April 25 at White Bear Lake High School, but if you are interested in watching the procedure and helping where needed, you are welcome to show up anytime between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. The address is 3551 McKnight Ave, White Bear Lake. Directions will be available at the next FACA program or you can call me at (763)434-5399.

We also have enough volunteers for the shifts at the Festival. I will get entrance tickets and parking instructions to those who have volunteered at the next program or by mail. If you have any questions, you can call me at the above number or email at SJBL2@msn.com. The proceeds from the Festival of Nations café provide scholarships to *Salolampi* for children who have relatives who are FACA members. We would not be able to have a café if we did not have the help of all the volunteers. Again, thank you all very much.

## *Äitienpäivä*—May 10

Mother's Day began in the United States, but spread quickly to European countries, Finland being no exception. Primary school children invited their mothers to come to school and enjoy an afternoon of entertainment and receive fresh flowers. Soon Mother's Day parties had spread throughout the country.

By the mid 1940's, the day received national importance as mothers began receiving medals for the parts they played in World War II. Since 1956, "The Order of the White Rose", first class medals have been distributed to distinguished mothers in Finland. The day also became an official flag raising day. Today, Finnish mothers enjoy much of the same traditions as mothers here, from breakfast in bed, to flowers and cards from their children.

### Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays, 4:30 to 6:00 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

## March Program Recap: Finlandia University

*By Jeanne Swope*

For our March program, we enjoyed a visit with Philip Johnson, president of Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan. He talked about the college today and the new initiative for collaboration with the Hancock school district, Campus and Community Together for Good.

### Finlandia University Today

Dr. Johnson described Finlandia University today: the only private educational institution in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and the only church-related independent college. He talked first about the students: 80% from the UP, female-male ratio among students (and faculty) 3-1; 70% of students commuting. Johnson called the students “determined, grateful for the opportunity to succeed in higher education.”

Twenty-three percent of the students represent pan-Lutheran backgrounds. The largest religious group on campus is Catholic; the rest come from many other faiths. Students in the service learning class in Tanzania each May, a distinctly Lutheran-oriented experience, represent a microcosm of the religiously diverse population on campus.

Finlandia offers degrees in liberal arts, art and design, and health sciences. The College of Health Sciences, anchored by the bachelor of science in nursing, enrolls 38 percent of Finlandia students. As the College of Health Sciences expands, there are plans for new collaborations with sister institutions and health care providers in the region.

Although finances are always a challenge for small, enrollment-dependent institutions like Finlandia, the university continues to find new ways to increase its enrollment offerings and to carefully manage its fiscal resources. Finlandia is determined to continue to be accessible and affordable to UP students, and to reach beyond the UP as well.

### Where Is the Finland in Finlandia?

The historical heritage of Finlandia is celebrated through curriculum and outreach. The Finnish American Heritage Center on campus provides activities for the community, adding to the vitality of the Houghton-Hancock area and the possibilities that the two-college area attracts. The school preserves its

traditional ties and pursues new connections with Finland to create exchange opportunities for Finlandia students and faculty.

### Campus and Community Together for Good

President Johnson talked with pride and excitement about the new initiative at Finlandia: Campus and Community Together for Good, an exchange and collaboration with the Hancock school district.

Recently Finlandia approached Hancock to propose an exchange: the soon-to-be-vacant middle school building (which is adjacent to the college campus) and its athletic fields for tuition remission at Finlandia—the “Hancock Award” for graduates of Hancock High School. The collaboration is in place. Twenty-eight Hancock Award recipients have been announced for Fall 2009. This initiative addresses growth challenges faced by the school district, the city, and Finlandia. The historic middle-school building will house the College of Health Sciences. The athletic fields will be shared between the school district and Finlandia.

President Johnson emphasized that the intent at Finlandia during these challenging times is to join hands and look for common solutions to shared challenges, not to “circle the wagons.”

In closing, he asked for “your continued good will—and welcome to Finlandia!”

By the way—take a look at Finlandia’s upgraded web site, <http://www.finlandia.edu> for the answers to any of your other questions about the school.

## Finnish Genealogy Group Websites

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (basic LDS genealogy website)  
[www.labs.familysearch.org](http://www.labs.familysearch.org) (newest projects of LDS Family History Library)  
[www.familysearchindexing.org](http://www.familysearchindexing.org) (information about volunteer indexing efforts)  
[www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org) (find and search libraries)

Databases available at LDS Family History Centers:  
[www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) (various databases)  
[www.genline.com](http://www.genline.com) (Swedish church records online)  
[www.heritagequest.com](http://www.heritagequest.com) (U.S. census records)

## Nordic Spirit will Rock this Summer! Festival scheduled June 26-28, 2009

The “Rokki” (*rock in Finnish-English*) spirit of the Nordic people will be celebrated during our “Nordic Spirit Rocks” year at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* Festival June 26-28.

Think about the rocks of Scandinavia’s geology, steamy sauna rocks, stories told by *Mummo* (grandma) in the heirloom rocking chair and electrified traditional Nordic instruments that rock!

Deeply rooted Nordic arts and traditions along with modern Scandinavian cultures will continue to be showcased from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Saamiland. Take part in a feast of Nordic foods and sing or dance along with some of the most talented musicians in the world; or shop for unique Scandinavian arts and treasures in the Nordic Marketplace. Discover genealogy connections and take part in the Traditions Passport Discovery Tour.

This year our headliner ROCKS! The teenage band KEHO will be in Fargo-Moorhead for a week, working with Trollwood Performing Arts School and participating in the Festival. The name KEHO is based on the surnames of four young musicians Anttu Koistinen (16) who is studying the ancient Finnish *kantele* instrument in a more “electric” way, Teemu Eerola (18) who is a first year bass student at Helsinki’s Pop Jazz Conservatoire, Rasmus Harinen (19) who studies violin, keyboards and guitar at Helsinki’s Joensuu Conservatoire, and Jesse Ojajarvi (17) who is studying drums at Helsinki’s Sibelius Junior Academy for talented young musicians. KEHO also is a Finnish word that means BODY. This groovy orchestra fuses deep root elements from Finnish and Scandinavian music with an electric twist!

Along with new music styles, we’ll hear the traditional sounds of Kanteleen Soittajat *kantele* group and the Jarvenpaa Choir from Duluth, Mn; the sweet vocals from Saana Ensemble and the danceable music of Finn Hall Band from Minneapolis-Saint Paul. Plans are being finalized now to host folk, jazz, contemporary world and other groups representing music from all the Nordic cultures.

To whet our appetites, Beatrice Ojakangas, author of many amazing Scandinavian and other cookbooks

including *Scandinavian Feasts*, will share genuine recipes and guest chef a dinner at HoDo Restaurant during Nordic Nightlife in Downtown Friday night.

These programs along with a feast of foods, hourly performances on two stages and heritage presentations, make the Festival a “do not miss” event. Watch for more information with all the details and we’ll see you this summer!



### 2009 Button features Finland’s National Bird

The official *Hjemkomst* Festival pass button serves as your “ticket to rock” at the 2009 Festival! The Whooper swan or bird of *Ultima Thule*, as shown in glass by Finnish Iittala artist Oiva Toikka, has an important status in the Finnish mythology and *Kalevala* epic poem.

Buttons are \$10/Adult in advance or \$12 at the door, and are good for up to 3 days of Festival fun. Youth under 19 FREE. Group rates \$8/Adult (10 or more) also available in advance. Help promote the Festival! Buy your button early. Available online at [www.FargoStuff.com](http://www.FargoStuff.com). Or you may become a Donor and receive one or more for free!

### FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight 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.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

## 27<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis–St. Paul International Film Festival



27<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis–St. Paul International Film Festival is set for April 16—30. *Three in Love (Kolmistaan)* a film by Peter Lindholm Finland, 2008 (94 minutes) In Finnish; English subtitles. In *Three in Love*, urban sociologist Tomi Laakso, a happily married man, falls for a sales clerk and finds himself in a tricky situation when his wife wants to meet the other woman. Instead of going behind his wife’s back, Tomi shares his feelings with her and finds himself in love with two women at the same time. Tomi’s wife Maria has to face the difficult facts and realize that Tomi still remains the love of her life.

“Director Peter Lindholm, returning to feature filmmaking after six years in TV, confidently handles his material, keeping a keen eye for detail,” said Finnish movie critic Antti Selkokari, calling it one of the year’s best films in Finland.

TICKET PRICES will remain the same as last year: General Admission Singles at \$10, Students & Seniors at \$8. For additional information: [www.Mspfilmfest.org](http://www.Mspfilmfest.org)

### 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"/> Laskiainen          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Pikkujoulu          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property    | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Finnish Airport Customs

By Beth Jarvis

On my second trip to Finland, I stopped at the town of Iitala. Yup, that’s where the famous Finnish glass comes from. They have a factory store with factory seconds. The US dollar was worth more than the Euro at the time, so I shopped and shopped. One of my treasures was a small Hackman saucepan. It was approximately \$13 for a one quart saucepan with a nice heavy bottom. For a single person, it was a find.

At the end of my visit, I filled out the value added tax (VAT) forms and presented them at the airport. I hadn’t packed the VAT items as I knew I’d have to present them at the airport. On this trip, I’d visited the Marttiini knives factory store in Rovaniemi and purchased two knives for friends. I was concerned with what the airline folks would say about the knives, but, the knives, once cleared by the airline, went into checked bags and all was well. The saucepan went into my carry-on.

I knew I was in trouble when the young, blond, male customs agent scanned my bag once, then again. Then he lifted it off to a bench on the side and called me over and asked me to open it. I told him I had a small saucepan in the carry-on. He told me I could not bring it on the airplane. I was directed back to the airline check-in counter where they tossed the saucepan and cover into a heavy plastic bag, slapped a sticker on it, threw it on the conveyor belt and handed me a claim check.

I still wonder what that young customs thought. Did he believe that a middle-aged, slightly arthritic Finnish woman would wreak havoc on an international flight waving a one liter saucepan?? Modern Finnish women must be something else!

The saucepan arrived at the Minneapolis airport in fine condition.



Bear guarding Helsinki-Vantaa airport.

## Pieniä Paloja

- Paljon Kiitoksia! Servers at the March program were **Ruth Ervasti, Joanne Smith and Alice Fligelman**.
- There is a shortage of nursing professionals at the Helsinki University Central Hospital. The worst effect is in the emergency care, intensive care, surgery, and surgical wards.
- **Fazer** is set to open F8 Sweet, a champagne bar in downtown Helsinki's Stockmann department store. Champagne selections at the bar will include several brands, and will also offer an assortment of special coffees, sparkling wines, and other wines. Fazer spokesperson claims Finnish women don't pamper themselves enough.
- Tom Jones and Duffy will headline at the **44th International Pori Jazz Festival** this summer. Other performers include U.S. soul artists Randy Crawford and Erykah Badu, as well as Booker T. Jones. The event runs from July 11—July 19.
- The new Formula One season has begun. Finland will be represented by Ferrari's **Kimi Räikkönen and Heikki Kovalainen**, racing with McLaren. Nico Rosberg, son of former World Champion Keke Rosberg, races under German colors and drives for Williams.
- What to buy for the person who has everything? The Finnish travel agency Area has announced that it will begin selling **tickets for space trips**, launched from New Mexico in 2011. Cost, approximately \$200,000. Approximately 300 trips have been booked, but so far no Finns.
- **Finnair** is set to add three weekly connections between Helsinki and New York this summer..
- Helsinki's **Hakamäentie road tunnel** is set to open in June. The speed limit in the two-lane tunnel will be set at 60 km/h.
- Diane Sawyer of Good Morning America visited **Finnish Lapland**. To see more: <http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=7074640>

### Welcome New Members!

**Bud Berry, Maplewood, MN  
Chad and Ann Wellmann,  
Lino Lakes, MN**

**Tervetuloa!**

## More Calendar Items (from pg. 8)

**June 12-13** Nisswa-stämman, 10th Anniversary Festival, Nisswa, Mn.

**June 26-28** 32nd Annual Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* Festival featuring "Nordic Spirit Rocks" and Finnish Expo 2009 at the *Hjemkomst* Center in Moorhead. Experience traditional and contemporary music, Scandinavian humorists, a Nordic marketplace, ethnic foods, genealogy resources, and demonstrations of Nordic arts and traditions. Exhibits about the replica Viking ship, *Hjemkomst*, and Hopperstad Stave Church as well as the 1870s Swedish Bergquist Pioneer Cabin are also included. Festival Pass buttons, good for 3 days of fun, available at [www.FargoStuff.com](http://www.FargoStuff.com). More info on pg. 5. Details at (218 ) 299-5452 or [www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org](http://www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org).

**Looking ahead! Mark the dates! Finn Grand Fest 2010 is coming to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario July 28-August 1, 2010.** <http://finngrandfest2010.com/>



## Help With FACA Website!

Have you been to a FACA event and taken some good digital pictures? Would you share them? I'm looking for *Laskiainen* celebration, Festival of Nations--baking day, café and general, *Pikkujoulu* and general programs.

FACA's web site hasn't had a *real* make over in years. I've tweaked it to add the new board, etc. but I'd like to add new, larger photos.

I'd like someone to review/suggest changes to the text on the FACA membership page and someone to check the links on the Links page.

Please e-mail me if you have images and/or can help with the website text.

Beth Jarvis at [bethjarvi@gmail.com](mailto:bethjarvi@gmail.com)



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)

## FACA CALENDAR

**April 16-30** Twenty-Seventh Annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. See pg. 6 for info.

**April 17** FACA program, Finnish Literature, 7:30 p.m. International Institute.

**April 19** Finnish Culture Through Movies. "Raid" 2003. [\*\*April 24\*\* FACA Uutiset deadline. Copy to Mary at: \[mary.belanger@dctc.edu\]\(mailto:mary.belanger@dctc.edu\).](http://finnish.imdb.com/title/tt0330802/Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information at the Culture Through Movies webpage or (651) 428-3155.</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**April 25** Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. 9:30 a.m. meeting, Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 County Rd 15. Linda Reverchon will give a presentation on her trip to Finland. More information: FGGMN website or [ds1940@aol.com](mailto:ds1940@aol.com)

**April 25** Baking Day at White Bear Lake High School for Festival of Nations *Café*. See pg. 2.

**April 30-May 3** Festival of Nations at RiverCentre in St. Paul. See pg. 2.

**May 15** FACA Program, 7:30 p.m. International Institute

**May 16** Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. 9:30 a.m. meeting, Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 County Rd 15. Election of Officers, brainstorming

about brick walls, planning summer research trips. More information: FGGMN website or [ds1940@aol.com](mailto:ds1940@aol.com)

**May 17** Finnish Culture Through Movies group "Pelican Man" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelikaanimies>. (See April 19 notice for location, etc.)

**May 17-24** FinnFest USA 2009 Cruise North to Alaska! (800) 848-7120 Join FinnFest USA as it holds its 2009 FinnFest in a unique and daring setting: a cruise ship sailing from Seattle through Alaska's stunning Inside Passage. Finn Hall will be the featured US dance band on this cruise. For more information [www.finnfestUSA2009.com](http://www.finnfestUSA2009.com)

**May 28-30** The Tchaikovsky Sessions: A Live Recording Experience. Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2, Minnesota Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä, conductor, Stephen Hough, piano. MacArthur "genius" Award-winner Stephen Hough is our guest for two weeks of piano magic. Be a part of history as the Orchestra and one of the world's most in-demand solo artists record the sweeping, romantic concertos of Tchaikovsky live in concert. The program also holds the riveting Symphony No. 10 by Finland's Kalevi Aho. [www.orchestrahall.org](http://www.orchestrahall.org) for more information.

*More calendar items on pg. 7*