

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

April/Huhtikuu 2007

“Crime and Punishment in Finland: A Cross-National Comparative Perspective”

By Professor Jukka Savolainen

The April program will focus on two issues:

1. The level of lethal violence in Finland is among the highest in Europe; higher than in any other “old” EU nation. Why do Finns kill each other so frequently?
2. Despite the nation’s high level of homicide, the Finnish incarceration rate is among the lowest in the world. Why is the Finnish society much less punitive than, say, the United States?

Jukka Savolainen is a Visiting Associate Professor affiliated with the Department of Sociology. He is on a leave of absence from the National Research Institute of Legal Policy, the research arm of the Finnish Ministry of Justice. Prior to Minnesota, Dr. Savolainen taught at Western Washington University and at the University of Helsinki. He earned his Ph.D. at the State University of New York, Albany.



APRIL FACCA PROGRAM

**Finnish Crime & Punishment
Friday, April 20**

7:30 p.m.

**International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**

*If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
at 612-374-2718*

Dr. Savolainen teaches classes in criminology, theory and methodology. Most of his research is focused on crime, violence, and criminal policy, often informed by a comparative cross-national perspective. In addition, Dr. Savolainen has published articles on sociological theory development, methodology, family studies, and art. He serves on the editorial board of the new peer-review journal, *Research on Finnish Society*.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

Piirakkas for sale at the program. See p.3.

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

It's time once again to begin preparations for the Festival of Nations, being held this year May 3-6 at St. Paul's RiverCentre. I want to encourage everyone to consider volunteering in either the café or the exhibit area. You may sign up on the schedules available at the next FACA program, or call Junelle Bernard (café) or Kaarina Kotkavuori (exhibit) and ask if there are any open times to fill. I especially would like to put a plug in for the exhibit booth as we seem to have a hard time getting volunteers there. If you enjoy talking to people about being Finnish, then this is the place for you. Even if you don't want to work during the Festival itself — you can still help. Setup for both areas happens on Wednesday night before the opening. We have lots of opportunities to get involved. The theme of the Festival is ethnic toys, games and sports. We are planning a *pesäpallo* display as well as skiing, *kyykkä* (skittles), and other sports and games.

It was good to see the crowd at the last program. Dan Karvonen's presentation showed that many of our members have interest in and questions about the spoken Finnish language. I think it underscores the feelings (from Finns!) that some of us have about the Finnish language. I finally learned the background of several things I have been hearing over the years — now they make more sense to me. Thanks, Dan, for a lively and enlightening program.

Part of Dan's talk included discussion of mobile phone text messaging, and how it is very popular in Finland—understandably, since it was invented there! Finland is known as a country that is a leader in computer technology. Next time you go to Finland, bring along your laptop, PDA, and other portable computing devices. Helsinki City Transport is now testing and will soon offer passengers free wireless internet connections on a select number of buses and trams. The city also offers free connections at a number of city-owned facilities including City Hall, the Tourist Office, libraries, as well as around most major city squares. We can't seem to go anywhere without these devices any more, and this development will make them all the more indispensable. They are convenient and make communication with home easier while traveling. Hopefully, some of you will be heading to Finland soon and can make use of these developments.



Welcome New Members!

Susan Haataja, St. Paul, MN

Lauren Hill, St. Paul, MN

Ann Mangoven and Brad Karkkainen, St. Paul, MN

FACA Renews Membership with Suomi-Seura

By Andreas Ostenso

FACA has renewed its association membership with *Suomi-Seura* for 2007. *Suomi-Seura*, or Finland Society, is an interest group for anyone with ties to Finland and has been supporting the Finnish expatriate community since 1927. Among other accomplishments, it was instrumental in establishing the Finnish Expatriate Parliament which has become a leading voice of expatriate interests in Finland. FACA has been a participant in these biannual meetings and will be sending Kaarina Kotkavuori to the 2007 session in Helsinki.

Beyond policy level issues, *Suomi-Seura* offers many services to recent immigrants and organizations such as ours. Many of you are already familiar with *Suomi-Seura's* informative bimonthly magazine "*Finland Bridge*" which can be found on the sign-in table at our monthly programs. Other benefits which FACA members might find useful include:

- discounts on literature, periodicals, movies, music, and other Finnish themed goods (along with discounted postage on all orders)
- free books and audio materials for use among members
- free Finnish flag annually
- grants for special projects and activities
- discounts on car rental and other travel related services

I encourage all members to take advantage of *Suomi-Seura's* offerings, so that we may get the most out of our \$140 in membership dues. For more information about benefits, please visit *Suomi-Seura's* website at www.suomi-seura.fi or contact one of the board members.

Board Notes *By Luella Zibell*



L-R: Andreas Ostenso, Luella Zibell, Barbara Nikula Owens, Alan Norgard, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Floyd Niskanen

The regular Board meeting held on March 13th included discussion and decisions on topics relating to programs, increasing our membership, Festival of Nations, and our participation in Celebrate Finland: 2007.

The Festival of Nations exhibit will feature games and recreation—Kaarina Kotkavuori will coordinate. Junelle Bernard and Merja Wilenius are chairing the Café; they have added open-face sandwiches to the menu this year.

We renewed our membership in *Suomi-Seura* and will receive a Finnish flag as a premium. Kaarina Kotkavuori will serve as our voting member at the Finnish Expatriate Parliament in Helsinki, September 10–13.

We are inviting volunteers to join the Board at the Annual Meeting in May—terms of several Board members are expiring this year.

***Piirakka* Sale at April Program**

By Kaarina Kotkavuori

Junelle Bernard and I were talking about how much fun it was making the Karelian *piirakkas* for the Festival of Nations last year. Junelle and Merja decided to put them on the menu for the Festival this year. We also decided that since the Finnish population generally likes *piirakkas*, we will be making *piirakkas* earlier to sell to the FACA members at our April meeting. The sale is a small fund raiser and all the proceeds will be donated to Salolampi Finnish Language Village.

Johnson Accepts Finlandia University Presidency

HANCOCK, MI – The Finlandia University Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Rev. Philip Johnson, Ph.D., has accepted the position of university president effective July 1, 2007.

Johnson succeeds Robert Ubbelohde, Ph.D., Finlandia's 15th president. Ubbelohde has held the position since 1991.

“By virtue of his training and experience, Philip understands the importance of both private liberal arts education and the university's Lutheran affiliation,” notes Rev. Dr. Dale Skogman, chairman of the Finlandia University Board of Trustees. “He articulates a vision that will appeal to prospective students and benefactors of Finlandia University.”

“In the process of interviewing for the presidency at Finlandia University, Philip evidenced great self-awareness. He was candid in sharing the strengths and weaknesses he'll bring to the position,” says Skogman. “Good leaders build on their strengths and surround themselves with skilled associates. Philip will bring a collaborative style of leadership to his presidency at Finlandia University.”

Philip Johnson came to Finlandia University in January 2006 as campus pastor and assistant to the president. Since August 2006, he has served as campus pastor and associate dean of Finlandia's Suomi College of Arts and Sciences.

For additional information, please contact Finlandia University Provost Dr. Jeanne Rellahan at (906) 487-7301 or jeanne.rellahan@finlandia.edu.

Finlandia University, founded in 1896 as Suomi College, is the only private university in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and one of 28 colleges and universities affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It remains the only university in North America founded by Finnish immigrants. Located in the beautifully rugged Upper Peninsula town of Hancock, Michigan, Finlandia University is a learning community dedicated to academic excellence, spiritual growth, and service. Bachelor and associate degrees are earned by students in two schools and two colleges serving the disciplines of art and design, international business, arts and sciences, and professional studies. Please visit their web site at www.finlandia.edu.

Two For the Price of One: or how and why written and spoken Finnish are so different from one another

By Floyd Niskanen

The March program was a language presentation by Professor Dan Karvonen. Dan is a lecturer at the University of Minnesota where he teaches Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced Finnish. He is a Finnish-American who studied at the University of Minnesota, Indiana University, University of Helsinki, and University of California.

Dan began by asking the audience, who had learned and spoken Finnish at home, and who had studied and learned it later? He stated that all languages are spoken, but not all are written and native speakers are usually more fluent. Spoken languages usually have reduced forms, false starts, and casual speech, which use slang and reduced forms. Also vocabulary changes as different words are used and new words come into use from other countries or areas.

Spoken Finnish evolved naturally whereas the written is created, Finnicized, and is of artificial construct. In the 1800's the written Finnish was mostly Turku dialect and later E. Lonrot brought in an eastern dialect with the *Kalevala*. Spoken language is informal and usually easier to learn than the more formal written or book language.

In conversations, the spoken language is used by most Finns in Finland; and it would be hard for foreigners to understand, especially in Helsinki. There is nothing inferior about the spoken language and some think the formal language can sound stilted. Finland has many dialects throughout the country, but the most widely used is the Helsinki dialect, because it is heard on the radio, TV, and in movies. And now with e-mails and text messaging, the spoken language is changing more with new shortened and simplified words.

It may be important to learn or study the spoken language, if you are going to spend longer time periods in Finland. After questions and answers, the discussions continued with Dan during refreshments.

Celebrate Midsummer *Juhannus* at Palmquist Farm June 22-24

Palmquist Farm has a rich Finnish heritage that is still celebrated today. Your Midsummer celebration includes:

- Traditional Finnish meals
- Bonfire back at the farm
- Use of our wood-burning sauna
- Knox Creek Heritage Scandinavian Dinner (five miles from the farm)
- Two nights lodging (cozy cabins with fireplaces)
- Finnish baking demonstration by owner Helen Palmquist
- Hay ride to view the farm's nature and buffalo, ending at local winery for wine tasting
- Presentation by owner Jim Palmquist about the farm's Finnish history (you are encouraged to bring Finnish family pictures & stories to share)

Knox Creek Heritage Dinner Includes:

- Traditional Scandinavian food
- Midsummer decorations
- Open exhibits
- Music
- Maypole

The Knox Creek Heritage Center, an affiliate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is composed of five buildings (a turn-of-the-century farmstead) representing several ethnic groups in southeastern Price County: the main farm house (circa 1900), a summer kitchen building, the Keto House (depicts a typical logging camp from the 1800's, complete with kitchen and bunkroom), Spirit Baptist Church (circa 1890), the *Waahto Sauna* built in the early 1900s, moved to the site and restored, and a pole shed. All the buildings on the site are used to display artifacts, documents, photographs, and other memorabilia that represent the cultural, ethnic, and historical aspect of past eras.

Cost is \$143/person/all inclusive. For more information, contact Anna Dielschneider, Marketing Manager, Palmquist Farm (651) 489-0703, (800) 519-2558 www.palmquistfarm.com. Brantwood, WI 54513.

The Singing Strings Perform New *Kalevala* music

The Singing Strings will premiere their new, specially-commissioned music inspired by the *Kalevala*, on Saturday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m., at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis.

Written by Finnish composer Harri Wessman, "*Birth of Väinämöinen*" includes narrative, chorus, and orchestra, and features soprano Eeva Savolainen as soloist. It will be the centerpiece of the Singing Strings' performing tour to northern Minnesota, Finland, and Sweden this spring and summer. The program also includes Finnish and Swedish folk melodies, Scandinavian songs, Pachelbel's *Canon*, and music by Vivaldi.

Performances in northern Minnesota include May 19 at Kaleva Hall in Virginia, and May 20 at Vermilion Community College in Ely.

In Finland, the Singing Strings will perform at the Cathedral of Helsinki on June 19 and 20, and in Turku on June 23, among other performances. The group also plans to perform at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles next fall and winter.

The Singing Strings performance group is made up of students from 7-14 years of age who study at the Evergreen School of Performing Arts, started in 1984 by twin sisters Helina Leino-Pakola, concert violinist, and Hilpi Leino-Kantola, concert pianist.

Christ Church Lutheran is located at 3244 34th Ave. S., in Minneapolis. A freewill offering will be taken, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person.

For additional information, e-mail lepakheli@msn.com.

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
Floyd Niskanen at 763-540-0121.

Frigg Returns to the Twin Cities

The Finnish-Norwegian powerfolk band *Frigg* will perform twice in the Twin Cities as part of their six-week North American/Canadian tour in April and May. In 2004 and 2005, they appeared in the Nordic Roots Festival and proved to be big hits.

On Saturday, April 14, *Frigg* will be a guest on *A Prairie Home Companion* show—on KNOW-FM (91.1) and KSJN-FM (99.5) at 5 p.m., with re-broadcast on Sun., April 15, on KNOW-FM at 11 a.m. On Thurs., April 26, *Frigg* will perform at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis at 7:30 p.m.—tickets are \$15 (\$18 day of show).

Frigg's members include three fiddlers from the legendary Järvelä family in Kaustinen as well as two players on mandolin, bagpipes, guitar, dobro, etc., and two Norwegian brothers on fiddle and Hardanger fiddle. In 2003, *Frigg* was chosen as the Band of the Year at the Kaustinen Folk Festival. To learn more, go to www.frigg.fi.

Saana In Concert



Saana members, from left; Sari Rönnholm, Ulla Tervo-Desnick, Elina Ruppert, Eeva Savolainen, and Elina Kala.

Saana Ensemble will be in concert Saturday, April 14th 2007 at 3:00 p.m., at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue S., Minneapolis MN 55406.

We would like to invite you to join us for an afternoon of traditional and non-traditional Finnish music to help us celebrate the release of our new CD.

Reception following the free concert. Suggested donation \$5–\$10. For more info call: (612) 721-6611 or (651) 329-.4610

8th Annual Nisswa-stämman

The 8th annual Nisswa-stämman will take place on June 8–9. Approximately 140 folk musicians participate in two days of performing, jamming, dancing and merrily ‘hanging out’ together. Guests from Scandinavia this year are: Haugaard and Høirup, folk duo extraordinaire from Denmark; Älvdalens spelmanslag, 20 members strong from Älvdalen, Sweden; and Klåpbakken and Furusaeter, two exciting young women fiddlers from Gudbrandsdalen. A locally featured group is the perennial favorite, Twin Cities Nyckelhapalag.

Fun for the whole family complete with music, dance, Scandinavian food, and a children’s tent. Norwegian and Swedish style fiddling workshops will also be given.

Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

The 30th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival will be held June 22-24. Enjoy world-class Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish, and Saami entertainment, arts and culture at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead! This year’s Festival theme is “Voyage of Discovery” with many special programs. There will be music representing all five Nordic countries and special programs will highlight the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Viking ship Hjemkomst sailing to Norway as well as the Norwegian Expo 2007. Admission for one or all three days is \$10.00. Buttons for the Festival are now available. There are numerous volunteer opportunities. Think about how you would like to help. Call (218) 299-5452 to be placed on the mailing list to receive the 2007 Official Festival Guide. For more information, please visit <http://www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org/>.

Intensive Beginning Finnish Course

Study Finnish this summer at the University of Minnesota! Class begins June 11 and runs until August 17, Mon–Thurs, 9:05 a.m.–12:05 p.m. In this ten-week intensive course in beginning Finnish you’ll learn to speak, read, understand, and write Finnish and at the same time you’ll become familiar with the Finnish way of life and Finnish culture. You can get more information from Dan Karvonen, karvo001@umn.edu, (612) 626.1651 or online at http://onestop.umn.edu/onestop/zredirect/Class_Schedule.html.

Pieniä Paloja

- Thank you to the refreshment servers at the March program! They were: **Aune and Bette Ruskanen and Marlene Banttari**.
- Area surrounding **Helsinki's Töölönlahti Bay**, located in the heart of Helsinki, is to be renamed Finlandia Park. The City of Helsinki plans to use the new name in its marketing and communications in order to emphasize the distinguished and unique quality of the area. The area will be developed with various cultural and recreational activities.
- **Minnesota has 99,388 Finnish-Americans** according to the 2000 United States Census, or 2.0 percent of the total state population.
- **Eric Peltoniemi and Red House Records**, a folk/roots label, based out of St. Paul, recently announced the signing of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee Jorma Kaukonen to its roster. Jorma was a founding member of Jefferson Airplane. His new largely acoustic CD will be released later this spring.
- Ice skating into Guinness: 45 skaters took part in an attempt to create the longest skaters' chain in the world in Helsinki's Ice Park last month. The record was set on the second attempt and will be submitted to the Guinness Book of Records.
- **The past winter** is likely to be the shortest ever recorded by the Finnish Meteorological Institute. **This year the length of the winter** in Helsinki was about a third of the length of a normal one.
- **The Rolling Stones** are including Helsinki among their European tour. The Stones have played Finland five times previously. Other summer concerts include Ozzy Osbourne, Genesis, The Who, and Metallica along with the summer's usual round of rock, blues, and jazz festivals.
- Most **Finnish restaurants** seem set to go completely smokeless from the beginning of June, when the amendment to the law on smoking in public areas comes into effect.
- **The Kalevala is read around the world.** The Finnish national epic has been translated into 61 different languages, which makes it the most translated Finnish work.
- **Marcus Grönholm remains** in the lead in the race for the drivers' World Rally Championship title, while **Kimi Raikkonen** won the first F1 race of the season for Ferrari.

Calendar, continued from pg. 8

June 24–Sept 2 A Mirror of Nature: Nordic Landscape Painting 1840–1910. Minneapolis Institute of Arts www.artsmia.org.

July 26–28 Finnfest USA 2007 Ashtabula, Ohio, "A Great Lake: A Great Heritage". For more information and to register: <http://finnfestusa2007.com>.

Aug. 26 *Pesäpallo* (Finnish baseball) game sponsored by *Suomi-koulu*.

Oct. 12 Concert by *Saana Ensemble*, part of the Leiv Eriksson International Festival, 7:30 p.m., Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 E. 21st St., Mpls., \$10. For info, see www.mindekirken.org.

Note from the Editor

Spring is here! I just returned from spring break and a dog sledding adventure up in Ely. I know . . . most people head south for vacation. After a long day of being outdoors we were welcomed back to the lodge for supper and a hot sauna, complete with the opportunity to jump into the frozen White Iron Lake. One of the women on our trip had never been in a sauna before and at first didn't really relish the thought of sitting in a hot room and getting all sweaty with eight of her new best friends. She quickly warmed up to the idea and was one of the first to jump in the lake!

Life can be full of all kinds of exciting new adventures. May your spring bring a wealth of adventure to your door!

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 _____



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

FACA CALENDAR

April 14 *Saana Ensemble* concert 3 p.m., Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave S, Minneapolis MN. Help celebrate the release of their new CD. See p. 6. For info: (612) 721-6611 or (651) 329-4610.

April 14 Folk music band *Frigg* plays on the live broadcast of *A Prairie Home Companion*, 5 p.m., Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul. See p. 6.

April 19-29 25th Annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. Check www.mnfilmarts.org for the schedule of Finnish films.

April 19, 20, 21 Orchestra Hall, Osmo Vänskä conducts Beethoven's First along with Symphony No. 9 for Trombone and Orchestra by Finnish composer Kalevi Aho. www.minnesotaorchestra.com.

April 20 6:30-8:30 p.m. Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. www.finnhall.com.

April 21 The Singing Strings perform at Christ Church Lutheran. (See p. 5 for info.)

April 25 Deadline for articles, event information, etc. for the April FACA newsletter. Send text to Mary Belanger, and photos to Beth Jarvis. (See p. 2 for contact information).

April 26 Folk music band Frigg performs at Cedar Cultural Center, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$18 day of show). See www.thecedar.org.

April 28 Festival of Nations, Baking Day, White Bear Lake South Campus kitchen. For more information or to volunteer call Junelle at (763) 434-5399.

May 3-6 Festival of Nations, St Paul RiverCentre.

May 11-13 *Salolampi* Spring Work Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji. For information contact Harlan Haanpää at (218)326-6884 or baseball@uslink.net.

May 13-19 *Salolampi* Spring Adult Week. For details e-mail kennedy@cord.edu or call (800)450-2214 or www.salolampi.org.

May 24, 25 Orchestra Hall, Osmo Vänskä conducts Sibelius' Symphony No. 2. For more information: www.minnesotaorchestra.com.

June 8-9 Nisswa's Folk musicians performing, jamming, dancing and merrily 'hanging out' together. Nisswa. See p. 6.

June 22-24 Celebrate Midsummer *Juhannus* at Palmquist Farm, Brantwood, Wi. (800) 519-2558 www.palmquistfarm.com See p. 5.

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