



# *Utiset*

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

**April/Huhtikuu 2010**

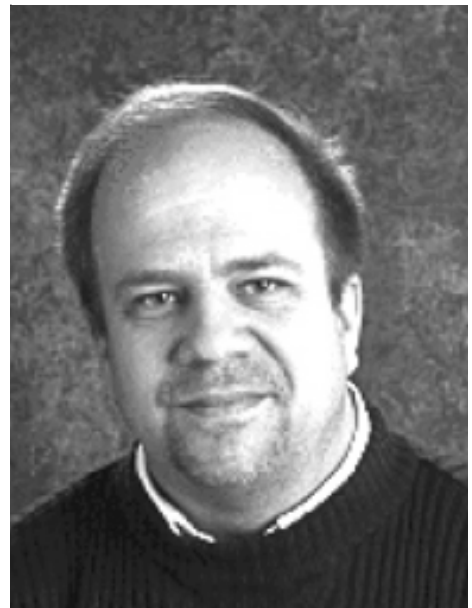
### **Finnish Titanic Passengers Greg Isola**

It was their journey. It was Titanic.

At our April program, Greg Isola, an independent Finnish researcher, will present the latest results of his continuing research into the Finnish passengers on the RMS Titanic. Much of this research focuses on William and Anna Lahtinen, who had connections to Minnesota and particularly to the Finnish community of Cokato. You will hear about their lives in the early part of the twentieth century, some details about the famous ship and its infamous calamity, and also information about all the Finnish passengers who made that fateful journey.

Greg Isola began to research his family's Finnish history as a teenager. Because of this research, he heard about a Finnish couple who had been on the Titanic. He talked with many older folks who had known about these people in the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. In fact, his own Isola grandparents in Michigan and Mattie great-grandparents in Sebeka knew the Lahtinens.

Greg lives in Northeast Minneapolis with his wife Stephanie and their children, Katarina, Maria, Abram, and Olivia. He taught a community education class called *Introductory to Finnish* in the 1990s and currently is teaching Finnish to a small group that meets twice monthly.



#### **APRIL FACA PROGRAM**

*Finnish  
Titanic Passengers*  
**Friday, April 16  
7:30 p.m.**  
**International Institute  
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*If you need transportation, call  
Marianne Wargelin  
at 612-374-2718*



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## President's Message

*By Kaarina Kotkavuori*

Happy Spring to you!

Thank you for coming to the March program. Our bake sale fund raising efforts on behalf of the *Salolampi* Language Village was successful. Thank you to all who brought the great variety of baked goods and to all who purchased the baked goods. We raised \$225.00 to add to our scheduled \$500.00 donation. It is wonderful that children want to go to the Finnish Language Village. The extra donation will possibly help another child attend the village. Our donation is specifically awarded to a child or grandchild of a FACA member.

Again, I plead for three people to volunteer for the FACA board. Three people are leaving the board after many years of services. The board cannot function with only four members. All of the board members are available to answer any questions that you might have about being on the board. I have enjoyed participating. It has had the addition benefit of getting to know more of our members.

Our next big event is the Festival of Nations. The Festival runs Thursday, April 29, to Sunday, May 1. The Festival of Nations is the only place we make money for our organization. In order to operate the cafe, we need to participate in the exhibit side of the festival. Junelle Bernard is doing the planning and scheduling for the cafe. I am doing the scheduling for the exhibit. The theme for the festival is Myths, Legends and Heroes and our exhibit will focus on the Finnish epic novel, the *Kalevala*.

We need at least two people in the exhibit; the shifts are four hours long. I hope more of our retired people will volunteer on Thursday and Friday during the day time so that working people do not have to take time off. We also need help Friday evening and on Saturday and Sunday. Each volunteer is given an entry ticket and coffee from the Finnish cafe. Women need to bring their own blouses if possible. The skirts, aprons, and scarves will be provided. Men need to wear black pants. Shirts will be provided. If you have a collarless long-sleeved shirt, please wear it. Jeans (denim of any color) and tennis shoes cannot be worn. We have information about the *Kalevala*, so that you can answer questions. The festival is a lot of fun. There are dance performances throughout the weekend, and a bazaar. Irene's Favorite Things from Park Rapids is coming to sell items from Finland. Please volunteer, come enjoy the food and music and our booths.

International Film Festival begins this week. I would enjoy seeing more of our members at the films. (*See pg. 6 for more information.*)

I hope to see you at the April program. Please join us for the program and the coffee time. *Tervetuloa!*



## A Bit of Finnish Mythology

By Beth Jarvis

Since the *Kalevala* is featured at Festival of Nations, here's a bit about Finnish mythology I found in Wikipedia which is reproduced here verbatim:

### Structure of the world, according to Finnish mythology.

The world was believed to have been formed out of a waterfowl's egg exploding. The sky was believed to be the upper cover of the egg, alternately it was seen as a tent, which was supported by a column at the north pole, below the north star.

The movement of the stars was explained to be caused by the sky-dome's rotation around the North Star and itself. A great whirl was caused at the north pole by the rotation of column of sky. Through this whirl souls could go to the outside of the world to the land of dead, *Tuonela*.

Earth was believed to be flat. At the edges of Earth was *Lintukoto*, "the home of the birds", a warm region in which birds lived during the winter.. The Milky Way is called *Linnunrata*, "the path of the birds", because the birds were believed to move along it to *Lintukoto* and back.

Birds had also other significance. Birds brought a human's soul to him at the moment of birth, and took it away at the moment of death. In some areas, it was necessary to have a wooden bird-figure nearby to prevent the soul from escaping during sleep. This *Sielulintu*, "the soul-bird", protected the soul from being lost in the paths of dreams.

Waterfowl are very common in tales, and also in stone paintings and carvings, indicating their great significance in the beliefs of ancient Finns.

Source:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish\\_mythology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finnish_mythology)

## Board Notes By Stella Arola



*L-R Andreas Ostenso, Edith Boos, Jeanne Swope, Stella Arola, Jane Olson and Kaarina Kotkavuori. Missing: Kara Middleton*

The FACA board met at Kaarina Kotkavuori's home on Tuesday, March 16. The secretary's report was held for the April meeting. The treasurer's report was read and approved.

Kaarina was happy to report that there were many interesting events coming up in the summer (including Finnfest, of course), so the June newsletter should be full of good items.

Planning is going forward for the Festival of Nations *Kalevala* display booth; Kara Middleton has formed a committee to work on the booth. Junelle Bernard is seeking volunteers for baking day and for work in the café. Baking day is April 24.

Jeanne Swope volunteered to form a committee to solicit new Board members for next year. She also said that speakers are arranged for this year (March, April, May) and next year (October and November). Jane Olson reported on hospitality for upcoming meetings.

We discussed upcoming events—the American Swedish Institute's midsummer celebration, including an address by our own resident architect, David Salmela. We also discussed the upcoming Festival.

The next meeting will be Tuesday April 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Kaarina Kotkavuori.

### Get the FACA newsletter electronically!

Get FACA *Uutiset* delivered via e-mail! It's fast, convenient and reduces printing and postage costs. E-mail: [rahkola.urho@comcast.net](mailto:rahkola.urho@comcast.net) to convert your subscription.

## March Program Recap

by Jeanne Swope

In March, faculty and students from Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan, gave a presentation. It was a particularly interesting program about the development of the exchange program, nursing education, and health care in Finland and the United States.

Fredi de Yampert, co-dean of the College of Health sciences and head of the Nursing program, talked about the background of the exchange program. When the nursing program went from a two-year to a four-year baccalaureate degree, it became possible for the school to reach out to its historical Finnish connection and offer a study-abroad option, both a summer program and an entire semester.

Two students who went to Finland under the program talked about their experiences in Finland and its health care systems. Amy Messer, a senior who studied for a semester at Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Helsinki, participated in theory classes clinical studies, keeping up with her Finlandia courses by distance education. At Finlandia, students split each week between classes and clinicals. The pattern in Finland is six to eight weeks of courses, then six to eight weeks of clinical experience. Amy liked the continuity and was privileged to work under one nurse. She was in a private hospital, but also learned a lot about public medical care in Finland and how the private and public areas work together. She felt that Finnish people were healthier—they ate better and were more active. Stoic and independent, they tend to take less medication. Amy met many other foreign students studying in Finland and enjoyed many activities including trips to Estonia and Stockholm.

Sadie Hebert, a junior at Finlandia, participated in the summer program. She shadowed a nurse in the NICU (her interest) at Metropolia, visited a mental health ward and saw an approach based on individual need rather than insurance guidelines, and learned about the work of Diaconia, the Helsinki Deaconess Institute, a 140-year-old public utility foundation that provides social and healthcare services as well as educational programs. She travelled around Finland with a group from Finlandia, visited the nursing program in Vaasa visited a trilingual (Finnish, Swedish, and English) pre-school and primary school, and participated in Inter-

national Nurse Day by helping with free health screenings. (See photo next page.)

Tuulia Terinkoski is a Finnish exchange student in the Finlandia University nursing program; she came for the entire academic year and is glad she did, even though she has a year to make up when she returns to Vaasa. She enjoys speaking Finnish with many American patients! She found the program arrangement with both theory and clinical each week to be a major difference. The U.S. program emphasizes the academics, because American students test for licensure after graduating (Finnish students test to get *into* the school). She likes her rotating duties and the warm nurse-patient relationship in the small hospital. The actual nursing, she said, is not technically different. She also has time to explore other activities: yoga classes, cheerleading (“so American!”), and dorm life with new friends.

Debbie Karstu, Assistant Professor and Study Abroad Coordinator for nursing, went to Helsinki in 2005 to set up connections for the exchange program; two Metropolia faculty members also visited Finlandia to help with the planning. Debbie had lived in Finland for four years and was able to make many valuable connections. She also accompanied last summer’s exchange group. Because Helsinki is a very international city, she wanted the group to see other areas of the country and understand more about the health care and the culture.

The audience had questions ranging from organ transplants and end-of-life care to use of public and private medicine in Finland. Are foreign nurses welcome to work in Finland? *There is a nursing shortage, so yes.* Are there male nurses? *Not many yet.* RNs or LPNs? *Both.* Nurse practitioners? *No, but hospitals train nurses further after graduation.* What about that distance education experience? *Amy: You have to be motivated and stick to it!* Do Finnish student nurses spend about the same time in patient care as Americans do? *Yes.* What about time in surgery? *That, too.* Nursing students also choose a specialty in their senior year. Lawsuits? *Almost unheard of.* Does Finland use the latest scans—MRI, CAT, etc.? *Yes.* If a Finnish nurse wanted to work in the U.S.? *It would be necessary to take an international exam and an English proficiency exam to be licensed here.*

If you would like to see the Finlandia PowerPoint presentation, we have some copies on CD-ROM. Please contact Jeanne at swope002@umn.edu .



*Sadie Hebert, a junior, at Finlandia University, is shown giving a free health screening on International Nurse Day.*

### **Salolampi Calendar 2010**

May 7-9	Spring Work Weekend
May 9-15	Spring Adult Week
Jun 14-19	Family Week (adults) (ages 4-17)
Jun 14-20	Soiva Salolampi Camp
Jun 21-26	One-week Session (ages 7-11)
Jun 21-Jul 3	Two-week Session (ages 8-13)
Jun 21-Jul 17	Four-week HS Credit Session (grades 9-12)
Jun 28-Jul 2	Adventure Day Camp (ages 6-11)
Jul 5-17	Two-week Session (ages 11-18)
Jul 9	International Day #1
Aug 13	International Day #2
Sep 11-17	Fall Adult Week
Oct 8-10	Fall Work Weekend

### **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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **Salolampi News**

**Work Weekend** Sign up now to volunteer for the spring work weekend, May 7–9. Work weekends (*talkoot*) at *Salolampi* started in 1993 with volunteers joining together to assemble three log cabins from Finland. These weekends, one in the fall and one in the spring, have continued ever since to help maintain the village. Anyone is free to attend work weekends and bring whatever skills they have with them whether it be painting, chopping wood, cleaning or organizing. Contact Marv Nevela or Mike Anuta via email [info@Salolampi.org](mailto:info@Salolampi.org), by April 14th, so that lodging and board can be arranged. Lodging, meals, entertainment, and a hot sauna provided. Please bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, and towels.

**Adult Salolampi** Improve your Finnish language skills along with broadening your knowledge of Finnish culture this spring by attending Adult *Salolampi*, May 9–15. If you are 18 years or older, whether you speak fluent Finnish or none at all, you are welcome to attend and learn more about your ancestry. If you can't make it this spring, sign up for Fall Adult Week, September 11–17. Scholarships are available. For more information [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) or call (800)450-2214.

**FACA Scholarships** FACA offers scholarships of \$100 to one-week villagers and \$200 to two-week villagers who are children or relatives of a FACA member. To request information and application contact Kathleen Jackson, 3225 Century Ave S., Woodbury, MN 55125. (651)739-3102. Application deadline is April 1.

**Soiva Camp** Now in its third year, is like no other camp in the world. Violin will be added to the existing piano, clarinet, flute, and composition and improvisation already available. Instructors from Finland and the United States collaborate to continue the outstanding success of this program. Students age 9–18 will be attending from June 14–20.

*Salolampi* is located northeast of Bemidji, on Turtle River Lake, in northern Minnesota. The *Salolampi* Foundation is committed to sustaining the Finnish language and culture through scholarships and program support at the *Salolampi* Finnish Language Village. For more information contact *Salolampi* at [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org)

## Five Finnish Titles to Grace Film Fest

A strong group of five bold new Finnish-produced films is set to grace the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival, running Thurs. April 15-30 at St. Anthony Main Theatre, 125 Main St. SE., Minneapolis, through Apr.30.

This biggest film event of the year in the Upper Midwest will include more than 130 feature films from more than 50 countries, with a more than a “Finnish Baker’s dozen” Scandinavian-themed titles from the five Nordic countries, with Finnish films this year dominating the Nordic selections.

Special sidebars will include a “culinary” section on films about food, a juried competition of first-and-second international features, American independents, and “Minnesota-made” films. A retrospective screening is also slated of the John Hanson/Rob Nilsson, brilliantly-shot *Northern Lights*, a re-mastered print of the prizewinning 1979 Cannes Fest film dealing with protesting post-World War I Finnish and Norwegian wheat farmers.

Presented by Minnesota Film Arts, a non-profit arts group founded as The University Film Society in 1962, the Finnish films are scheduled to include the following: (films are in Finnish with English subtitles).

In Oscar submission *Letter to Father Jacob* (from *Mother of Mine* director Klaus Haro), a hardened ex-con is assigned as personal assistant to an aging, blind pastor in a ramshackle parsonage (shades of Ingmar Bergman’s *Winter Light*), whose one joy is answering letters for help. Standout performances accompany Haro’s lush visuals and a top piano score in what has been described as a “transcendent” heart-rending film about faith and frailty. (Image below.)



Mika Kaurismaki is back from his Brazilian sojourns with a broad farce, *The House of Branching Love*, a huge audience pleaser on home grounds, about an on-the-rocks rambunctious marriage of a thirties-something family therapist and her business trainer husband. (“Divorce Finnish Style”, with a touch of Shakespearean comedy, commented a Toronto Fest reviewer). (Image below.)



Other films in a strong Finnish quintet will include *Forbidden Fruit*, (*Kielletty hedelmä*) about a village girl who escapes her conservative (Laestadian) family to live in Helsinki, until the village patriarchs force her return, and *Basket Case*, (*Taynna tarmo*) about a down-at-the-heels country basketball team (from a B-league club, the Porvoo Tarmo) recruiting traveling U.S. college players for league prestige. Director Oskari Pastila’s no-holds-barred documentary gets off on hilarious international relationships from a management with no clue as to hiring.



*Volga, Volga* continues Finnish fascination with neighboring Russia, with a riverboat of Europeans from all over, and their attendant cultural contradictions, voyaging from Moscow to the Caspian, as director Marja Pensala plumbs the essence of the mythic “Russian soul” today.

Support for the Finnish selections this year comes from the Minnesota Finnish Honorary Consulate. Full festival synopses, titles, discount tickets (Seniors and students can get a five-coupon pass for as little as \$30) can be found on the fest website, [www.mspfilmfest.or.](http://www.mspfilmfest.or.), for info: (612)331-7563 email: [info@mnfilmarts.org](mailto:info@mnfilmarts.org)

## Pieniä Paloja

- March servers were Kathy Jackson, Helen Ylönen, and Dan and Delores Selin. *Kiitos!*
- Daytime temperatures in the southern part of Finland are usually above 0°C at this time of the year, but now temperatures have been below zero, even during the day, preventing the snow from melting. Although the winter is still in full swing, there is an increasing amount of daylight, and because of that, some migratory birds have already arrived.
- Last year the number of all the Nokia handsets sold in North America declined by 14 per cent from 2008.
- On International Women's Day Russian painter Dmitri Zudov's portraits of Finnish female politicians were put on display at the UN office in Moscow. In April the portraits will be shown in Helsinki. The paintings do not show the expressions of determination that are often seen in news photographs. The decision-makers in the portraits are sensual and feminine. "Finnish women are known to be independent and active in society", says Zudov.
- About 200 to 250 Finns live in Chile. There is much forest industry in Chile, with machinery that needs Finnish know-how.
- The Finnish population grew last year by about 25,000 people to slightly over 5,351,000, according to the Population Register Centre. Women outnumber men by more than 100,000. At the end of last year Finland had nearly 156,000 foreign citizens as residents.
- The name "Dallapé Orchestra" has been protected since a 1994 ruling by the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, but now a second-generation Dallapé Orchestra aspires to win hearts and minds of a new audience. The 12-piece Finnish dance band is now fronted by Juha Hostikka.

### Welcome New Members!

**Barbara Beck, St. Paul**  
**Marjorie and Ellard Krohnfeldt, Plymouth**  
**Dale and Michelle Ryyananen,**  
**Maple Grove**  
**Robert and Elaine Sund, Coon Rapids**

***Tervetuloa!***

## More Calendar Items (from page 8)

**May 16** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Rölli* <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0249131/> Christ Church Lutheran. See Apr. 18 listing.

**May 21** FACA monthly program 7:30 p.m., International Institute of Minnesota, 1694 Como Ave. St. Paul.

**May 22** Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. Monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m. Annual awards and election of officers. Joan Dwyer and Ken Daniels will present a history of a Tornio River Valley farm. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. More information: [dwyers@ties2.net](mailto:dwyers@ties2.net) or FGGMN website.

**May 28** FACA Summer calendar *Utiset* deadline

**June 20** Oulainen Youth Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m., Kenwood Lutheran Church, 324 West Cleveland St., Duluth.

**June 21** Oulainen Youth Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 333 South 12 St., Mpls..

**July 18-24** SISU (*Suomen Innokkaat Sisukkaat Ulkosuomalaiset*) offers its 8th Finnish Language and Culture seminar for adults, University of Minnesota, Duluth. One week seminar includes 25-30 hours of Finnish language study at three levels plus other activities. Seminar: \$375 + \$20 membership fee; dormitory housing and meals: \$300. **Registration deposits due April 17, 2010.** More: [kaisa@eurekanet.com](mailto:kaisa@eurekanet.com), (740) 592-1157, Kathleen Ristinen, Secretary, 2 North Shannon Avenue, Athens, OH 45701

**July 28-Aug 1** Finn Grand Fest, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. <http://www.finngrandfest2010.com/>

### 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!

- |                                      |  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Library             |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> Pikkujoulu          |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone   |

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



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

**Apr 9** Finn Hall will be playing at Kramarczuk's, 6:30–8:45 p.m. Great food, dance space, \$3 cover charge.

Kramarczuk's is located at 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com), [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com), [www.kramarczuk.com](http://www.kramarczuk.com)

**April 12** Sonata Arctica performs 5:00 p.m., Station 4, 201 E. 4th St., St. Paul. [www.station-4.com](http://www.station-4.com). More information: [www.sonataarctica.info](http://www.sonataarctica.info)

**Apr 15–30** 28th Annual Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival *More info pg. 6*

**Apr 16** FACA monthly program, 7:30 p.m., International Institute of Minnesota 1694 Como Ave. St. Paul.

**Apr 17** Finntroll, Moonsorrow, Swallow the Sun, and Survivors Zero perform, 7:00 p.m., Station 4, 201 E. 4th St., St. Paul. [www.station-4.com](http://www.station-4.com) More information:

[www.finntroll.net](http://www.finntroll.net), [www.moonsorrow.com](http://www.moonsorrow.com), [www.swallowthesun.net](http://www.swallowthesun.net), <http://survivorszero.com/>

**Apr 18** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Menolippu Mombasaan*, <http://www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=329> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Culture Through Movies Webpage or (651) 428-3155.

**Apr 23** FACA *Uutiset* copy deadline.

*More calendar items on page 7*

**Apr 24** Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. Monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m. A Sami presentation. Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15 Plymouth. More information: FGGMN website or [dwyers@ties2.net](mailto:dwyers@ties2.net)

**Apr 24** Festival of Nations Baking Day, White Bear High School, 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

**Apr 15–30** 28th Annual Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival. *More info pg. 6.*

**Apr 30** Finn Hall at Kramarczuk's 6:30 - 8:45 pm Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co. is at, 215 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis (612-379-3018). \$3 cover.

**Apr 30–May 2** Festival of Nations, RiverCenter, St. Paul.

**May 7–9** *Salolampi* Work Week. Contact Marv Nevela or Mike Anuta via email [info@Salolampi.org](mailto:info@Salolampi.org), by April 14. *See pg. 5 for information.*

**May 8** Saana Ensemble Concert, St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, 1524 Summit Ave, St. Paul, 2:00 p.m. Finnish hymns and folk tunes, a cappella and with instruments. Special guest is Sara Pajunen on violin. Free will offering

**May 9–15** Spring Adult Week at Salolampi Scholarships available. *See pg. 5.*