

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

February/Helmikuu 2007

FACA and Suomi-koulu's Laskiainen Celebration

The FACA February program is being changed from the normal Friday evening program to a joint FACA and Suomi-koulu Laskiainen celebration. It will be held on Sunday, February 18 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Como Park Ski Chalet Room, 1431 Lexington Avenue in St. Paul. It will be an indoor/outdoor event held at the Como Park Ski Center so children and others can ski or slide. It will continue some of the thoughts/ ideas from the January FACA meeting, New Friends, Fresh Ideas, Common Heritage.



A special feature of this event will be the, "Qualifying Trials of the 20th Kicksled World Championships". There will be races in various categories with prizes. Also some entertainment is planned in the chalet during the afternoon. There will be a traditional Laskiainen meal of pea soup, laskiais pulla, and beverages provided by Suomi-koulu and FACA board members. A \$5 donation is suggested for the afternoon.

Come enjoy Laskiainen, meet new friends, fellowship, and bring your children, skis, sleds, etc.

FEBRUARY FACA PROGRAM

Laskiainen Celebration
Sunday, February 18
2:00 p.m.— 6:00 p.m.
Como Park Ski Chalet Room
1431 Lexington Ave.
St. Paul

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



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President's Message

By Alan Norgard



I noticed an article online today that was about the world's first text message novel. Hannu Luntiala has written a thriller "Viimeiset Viestit" (*Last Messages*) composed entirely of the mobile phone text messages. The main character is an executive who is the head of an information technology company who travels the world and sends the messages back home. Finns have been leaders in cell phone technology so it makes sense that this novel would be written by one. This also loosely ties in with last month's program topic. As part of the program we broke up into several groups and discussed subjects that we thought would make good interest groups that we could use to help promote Finnish culture and events. One of those groups was the internet and web page development – definitely an area the Finns are known for. There were other areas that were attracting interest such as cooking, movies, food, and literature. Check Floyd Niskanen's article in this *Utiset* if you are interested in participating in any of these groups and contact the leader. I hope that these groups will grow and provide a way for us to become more active in the group and also possibly be a way to attract new members. If you have other ideas for interest groups please feel free to see if other people would also like to join you and create new ones.

Polish up your kicksled runners everyone! Did you know that there will be North American Qualifying Trials of the 20th Kicksled World Championships as part of the next program? We are again joining Suomi-koulu for a Laskiainen celebration at the Como Park Ski Chalet, 1431 North Lexington Parkway, St. Paul, on Sunday February 18th. Come join us from 2:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m. for an afternoon of sliding or just come to watch the festivities. Pea soup and pulla will be available and we are hoping to have some entertainment, too. For info, call (651) 489-8036. There will be no program at the Institute in February.

Remember that this is going to be a busy year for Finnish events as it will be the leadup to the big 90th anniversary Finnish Independence Day celebration next December. There will be movies, *pesäpallo* games, art, and architecture exhibits in Minneapolis-St. Paul all through the year so be sure to watch for announcements in the news and on the website www.minnesotafinnish.org.

When you're through reading this
newsletter, share it with a friend!

Karni Scholarship Awardee Announced

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) is pleased to announce Paul Anthony Lubotina as the recipient of the 2006-2007 Michael G. Karni Scholarship. Dr. Lubotina is an instructor in American History at Northern Michigan University. His project is titled "Political Activities of Finnish Immigrants during the Great Depression." The IHRC will host an informal presentation by Dr. Lubotina during his research visit —possibly in March 2007. Further information on this event will be posted on the Center's Web site as it becomes available.

The Karni Scholarship, established as a memorial tribute to the pioneering historian and publisher of Finnish American research and literature, is intended to help defray expenses of visiting professors, lecturers, and graduate students from the U.S. or abroad consulting the archival collections of the IHRC, with particular emphasis on its Finnish American holdings. This is the third year of the award competition.

Free Beginner Finnish Class

Thursday evenings at 7:00
Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran
Church,
11015 Old County Road 15,
Plymouth

Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesday evenings 4:30--6:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Library
Corner of Como Ave. and
Carter Ave., St. Paul
Everyone is welcome!
For information call
Floyd Niskanen
at 763-540-0121.

Board Notes *By Luella Zibell*



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

Review and evaluation of the 2006 Pikkujoulu comprised a large part of the discussion at the January Board meeting. Andreas had done a recap of attendance and expenses, which revealed that there were about one-half non-members in attendance (total 135) and without them, we would have a shortfall. The meal was sumptuous (as always); the entertainment good, the tori successful, and a good time was had by all.

Because this is the 90th anniversary of Finnish Independence, we will be involved in special commemoration celebrations, and more events will be scheduled.

Decision and discussion items included plans for Laskiainen in conjunction with Suomi-koulu, Festival of Nations, and the art exhibit, "A Mirror of Nature," coming to the Minneapolis Institute of Arts in May, as well as website update, and the regular reports of the secretary, treasurer, VP Programs and Hospitality Chair.

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.

FACA On-line

By *Andreas Ostenso*

The Board is considering changes to FACA's website which will hopefully increase our organization's exposure and improve the content of our home page. It is now a truism to say we live in the information era. The web is often times the first place people turn to for, well, just about anything. Indeed, I recall looking for FACA on the web when I moved to the Twin Cities back in 2001. An easily accessible and timely web site is an asset to the membership and an excellent way to put our best foot forward to the greater world.

For some years now, Beth Jarvis has maintained our website at www.finnfaca.org. The site has grown and become more functional with time. For instance, Pikkujoulu invitations have been downloadable for a couple years, and past newsletters are also accessible. We would like to increase traffic and to make updating information an easier and more distributed effort.

To this end, I spoke with Jukka Kukkonen and Risto Sivula who help maintain the Minnesota Finnish Pages located at www.minnesotafinnish.org. This website has grown tremendously in the past few years and has become the de facto portal for all things Finnish-American in the Twin Cities region. Among other things, it contains a wealth of information and has an extensive compilation of interesting links. Thus, it is no surprise that the site gets over seven thousand hits a month. The Board is considering moving [finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org) to Minnesota Finnish Pages in order to increase awareness of FACA. A second benefit of this move would be that updating information would require no HTML programming skills. Indeed, even I feel that I could create a page after receiving a 15 minute tutorial. It is hoped that this ease of use will encourage more people to become involved in updating the website and thus ensure that the content remains interesting and timely.

Minnesota Finnish Pages will charge us \$150 per year for web hosting. The Board will maintain our original domain name, www.finnfaca.org, which will serve as a quick link to the content. This will cost an additional \$20 per year. Thus, we may actually save money as we currently pay USFamily.net about \$200 per year for the same services. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at tostenso@yahoo.com.

From the Editor

First of all, I would like to thank everyone for the well wishes I have received after taking over the editorial position of the *Uutiset*. I hope to do as well as Tiina, and will be looking to her guidance, along with the rest of the newsletter committee.

I grew up as Mary Lepisto, in a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. My parents and grandparents spoke Finnish to me when I was little. I have fond memories of attending various functions at the Rock Finn Hall and the Ishpeming Armory. My father would take me to listen to his favorite accordion players and I learned to polka. Each Sunday morning our television would be turned to *Suomi Kutsuu (Finland Calling)* with Carl Pellonpaa. He was, and still is, the proud host of the only Finnish television show in the U.S. It can be quite exciting to hear your family members' names mentioned on those special occasions such as a birthday or an anniversary.

I'm sure you all have those special memories growing up. We would like to hear your stories. They don't have to be long, they can be funny or serious, send them in, we would love to hear from you!

FACA and Kisarit Scholarships to Salolampi

The Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers will award one \$500 scholarship to a qualifying one-month villager to the Salolampi Finnish Language Village. FACA offers scholarships of \$100 to one-week villagers and \$200 to two-week villagers who are children or relatives of a FACA member. For information and an application, contact Kathy Jackson at 651-739-3102, 3225 Century Ave. S., Woodbury, MN 55125. The deadline is March 10.

Welcome New Members!

**Esther Koland of Blaine,
Helen Irene Peterson of Minneapolis,
Bernard and Gail Sorjanen Pruse,
of Apple Valley**

Tervetuloa!

NEW FRIENDS, FRESH IDEAS, COMMON HERITAGE

By Floyd Niskanen

The January program, “New Friends, Fresh Ideas, Common Heritage,” was an interactive program facilitated by Jukka Kukkonen, an active member of the Finnish community. He teaches at Suomi-koulu, publishes the Suomi-info newsletter, maintains the MinnesotaFinnish.org web site, etc.

After his introduction which included the plan for the evening, he summarized the goals for the session as:

1. Bring people and groups closer together
2. Develop ideas to build the Finnish Community
3. To have fun

The audience was split into five groups.. Each group brainstormed/raised ideas about how to develop Finnish culture, language, and cooperation. Then, the groups shared their thoughts with the rest of the audience and about 80 ideas were shared. Here is a listing of most of the ideas:

Have events/programs of Finnish films, music, art, architecture, plays, dances, photography, talent shows; sessions on cooking, quilting, Finnish language; broaden Suomi-koulu, teach music to children, choir, health care; programs of Finnish history, Finnish-American history, personal histories, genealogy, how Finland is changing, job market in Finland, travelogs; city tours for visitors and new people, charter tours to Finland, activities with children, child care at meetings, public sauna, *pesäpallo* league, greeters at meetings, television program relating to Finland, social group, book club, study group, call committee for meetings and new members, lottery, joint programs with other groups, intergenerational meetings, Finnish connection at U of MN, and travel plans to Finland.

Five people volunteered to lead a topic/area of interest. They are: Luella Zibell—cooking, Theresa Lund—movies, Reino Paaso—television program, Gene Karjala—study group, Andreas Ostenso—internet. Others volunteered to help these people. If you want to join one of these groups, please call the leader or a FACA board member. Or if you want to start a different group please call one of the board members. A followup meeting will be planned later this year.

Finnish Recipe of the Month Sipulipiirakka (Finnish Onion Pie) serves 6

- 1 ¼ teaspoons active dry yeast (equivalents listed at bottom of recipe)
- ¾ cup water (105 to 116 degrees F)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ lbs sweet onions
- ¼ lb diced smoked ham (½ inch dice)
- 1 cup sour cream
- 4 eggs
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 tablespoon caraway seeds
- 2 tablespoons oil or melted butter

1. In large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water.
2. Let stand 5 minutes.
3. Add salt, oil, or butter, and flour.
4. Beat until dough is smooth and satiny.
5. Cover, let rise for 1 hour (until doubled).
6. Cut onions into thin slices. Place in frying pan along with ham and cook over low heat until onions are soft (about 15 minutes).
7. Remove from heat, stir in sour cream, eggs, salt to taste, and caraway seeds.
8. Butter 10 inch pie, quiche or tart pan.
9. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
10. On lightly floured board, roll out pastry to fit prepared pan.
11. Turn filling into lined pan.
12. Bake for 35 to 40 minutes until crust is browned and pie is set.
13. Note: Yeast equivalents are One package = 2 ¼ teas. = ¼ ounce.

Recipe: Recipezaar

<http://www.recipezaar.com/recipes.php?categ=finnish>



Christmas Exhibit in the American Swedish Institute's Finnish Room

Text and photos by Marlene Banttari

Snow and colorful holiday decorations add light and cheer to the *kaamos* season of long darkness in Finland during the winter. This theme was introduced by the book, *Talven sininen hetki*, (Winter's Blue Time), that was displayed on the Finnish coffee table.

Typical Christmas baked goods, shown on a colorful Arabia coffee service, included snowflake-shaped *piparkakku* cookies, a *pulla* ring and *joulutortut*. Color was also introduced with multicolored votives, greenery, candies and a *Toikka* bird. The lighted tree, with snowflakes and ornaments represented how color brightens the home. The mantel mirror reflected large white hanging snowflakes above the many-colored candles in *Festiva* holders and greenery. The setting was one of five Scandinavian holiday displays featured through November and December and viewed by guests during many holiday events at the Institute. The display featured Arabia dishes on loan from the Salolampi Finnish Language Village, glassware and accessories from FinnStyle, wood snowflakes and personal items from the designer.



Pieniä Paloja

- A huge thank you to our hospitality people for last month's program: **Urho and Pam Rahkola and Jane Olson**. The refreshments were wonderful!

- **Are you Mensa material? Last autumn the Finns overtook the Brits** and set a new world record. Finland now has more Mensa members per capita than any other country in the world. The threshold level for membership in Mensa International is an IQ of at least 148, found in around two per cent of the population.

- **www.MSN.fi busiest website in Finland.** *Helsingin Sanomat* and Microsoft have signed a contract on an extensive web content cooperation project. *Helsingin Sanomat* will produce news and entertainment content for the Microsoft Finland web site. The www.MSN.fi portal, is the busiest web-based news and information services provider in Finland. The front page of the www.MSN.fi site will now include a news and entertainment section provided by *Helsingin Sanomat*. The cooperation with www.MSN.fi will provide *Helsingin Sanomat* with a window to access consumer groups that do not necessarily read traditional newspapers, such as the younger Internet users, the so-called "Messenger generation".

- **Red is the color of love.** No red more so than Ferrari red. **Kimi Räikkönen** is now facing the biggest challenge there is in Formula One, stepping into the boots of Michael Schumacher behind the wheel of the red car. **Räikkönen's goal at Italian Ferrari** is clear enough. He wants to win the drivers' championship title. "I like the style of the team, with everything. Of course it is a bit special to wear the Ferrari clothing for the first time and the racing suit is new and exciting."

- **Fazer updates package design.** The sweets manufacturer Cloetta Fazer says that it will update the design of the wrapping of its popular licorice. For 80 years, Fazer licorice sticks have been wrapped in paper adorned by the caricatured face of a black person. Fazer said that the change will take place at the end of this year at the earliest. The company says that the figure is linked with many "familiar and positive mental images." "Nevertheless, in a multicultural society, the package raises debate, in addition to which the change of wrapping is needed on an increasingly international market," says Anita Laxen, head of communications at Cloetta Fazer.

More Calendar, from p. 8

Feb. 24 Finnish Genealogy Group of MN meeting 9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m. Meeting topic: Panel discussion about Sami Heritage. Minnesota Genealogical Society, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway Golden Valley MN
More information: www.minnesotafinnish.org or ds1940

Feb. 28 Kalevala day or Day of Finnish Culture (fly the Finnish flag, see:

www.intermin.fi/intermin/home.nsf/english/flag).

Mar 8 and 9. Finnish parliamentary elections held.

Polling at the Finnish Consulate. More information:

www.vaalit.fi/14173.htm

Mar 11 5th Annual Saint Urho's Day Mojakka Cook-Off takes place at the Historic Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, MN <http://mojakka.com/cookoff/cookoff.htm>

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

May 11-13 Salolampi Spring Work Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji.

Come help clean, build and make repairs as needed at the village, and get free lodging, entertainment and Finnish food and sauna! For information contact

Harlan Haanpää at (218) 326-6884 or

baseball@uslink.net

May 13-19 Salolampi Spring Adult Week. For details email kennedy@cord.edu or call 1-800-450-2214 or see the website at www.salolampi.org.

June 24—Sept 2 A Mirror of Nature: Nordic

Landscape Painting 1840-1910 Minneapolis Institute of Arts www.artsmia.org

July 26-28, 2007 Finnfest USA 2007 at Ashtabula, Ohio, with the theme: "A Great Lake; A Great

Heritage." See <http://finnfestusa2007.com/> for information and to register.

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

Jan. 19–Feb. 16 Art Exhibition at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan featuring Finnish artist Akseli Gallen-Kallela. See <http://www.finlandiauniversity.org>

Feb. 8–10 Osmo Vänskä conducts the Minnesota Orchestra as it plays Sibelius' *In Memoriam* and Symphony No. 4 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. For tickets or information, call 612-371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

Feb. 10, Sat. Minnesota Orchestra performs Sibelius and Beethoven, directed by Osmo Vänskä, followed by a reception for the FinnFest USA Board of Directors and Osmo Vänskä. Tickets for both concert and reception are \$65 (\$12 for those already holding tickets). To reserve tickets or request additional information, contact Betsey Norgard, at norgard@winternet.com or 651-786-5988. The deadline to reserve tickets is Friday, Feb. 2. Reserve early—tickets are limited! Make checks payable to Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities Chapter.

Feb. 16–19, 2007 Bring your whole family and enjoy the Finnish Family Weekend at the picturesque Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Learn some

Finnish, sing Finnish songs, eat lots of Finnish food, enjoy the sauna by the frozen lake (rolling in the snow optional), weave a small rug and make other Finnish crafts, go snowshoeing, sledding and cross-country skiing (bring your own sleds and skis) and learn about Finnish culture. See www.salolampi.org or call 1-800-450-2214.

Feb. 18, Sun. FACA's and Suomi-koulu's *Laskiainen* celebration will be held 2 to 6 p.m. at the Ski Chalet at Como Park. There will be sledding, kicksled races, and a buffet of pea soup, *pulla* and coffee for a nominal fee (\$5 suggested). www.minnesotafinnish.org (See p. 1)

Feb. 21 Deadline for articles, event information, etc. for the March FACA newsletter. Send text to Mary Belanger, and photos to Beth Jarvis. (See p. 2 for contact information.)

Feb. 23 Jorma Kaukonen performs at The Cedar with Barry Mitterhoff. Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Avenue S., Minneapolis. 8:00 p.m. Tickets: \$25/advance, \$30/day of show For more information: www.thecedar.org, www.jormakaukonen.com
Calendar cont. p. 7