



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

February/Helmikuu 2008

Laskiainen Celebration Jonathan Rundman, Musician

Come celebrate *Laskiainen* this month with a musical performance by Jonathan Rundman, a singer/songwriter from Minneapolis, followed by a potluck coffee hour featuring the traditional pea soup.

Jonathan comes from Ishpeming on the Upper Peninsula, where he graduated from high school in 1989. He is a Finnish-American performer whose style comes from American rock, Lutheran hymns, traditional American folk music, and '70s rock. This eclectic mix makes it hard to describe his style exactly, but it also makes for a varied and interesting mix. He sings and accompanies himself on acoustic guitar and harmonica. Jonathan has several albums to his credit and regularly performs across the U.S. as well as Canada, Sweden, and Finland (where he has a relative who is an actor in Finnish soap operas.) If you go to his website www.jonathanrundman.com, you will find an impressive anthology of his musical accomplishments and reviews of his work. The reviews are very complimentary and describe him as an adventurous and skilled songwriter. From the first album he released in 1993 to his latest in the summer of 2007, his music has served as a "testament to one of America's most overlooked yet persistent independent rock musicians." Some of you may have seen him perform at the Finnish Independence Day celebration in December. Though his songs may not be strictly "Finnish," there is still a Finnish feel and angle to his music. He is also scheduled to perform at Finnfest in Duluth this summer so we will have more opportunities to enjoy his music.



FEBRUARY FACCA PROGRAM

***Laskiainen* Celebration**
Friday, Feb. 15
7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
at 612-374-2718

After the program our potluck will begin. Food and music always make a good pair and we hope to have another success like the one we had a few years ago—what a spread we had! The FACCA board will provide the pea soup, coffee, and juice, and are asking members to bring *pulla*, flatbread, snacks, "finger food," or desserts to share. Plates and utensils will also be provided. This should make for a fun and festive event that everyone can share and be a part of. Come to *Laskiainen* and help chase those midwinter blues away . . . as fast as St. Urho will chase grasshoppers next month!

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard



At our last program, I mentioned the possibility that FACA may need to find a new home as the cost of the International Institute keeps going up. We are now paying \$225 per night as a rental cost and have to pay an additional rental fee for any audio-visual equipment or special items we need.

Over the course of the year this adds up quickly. We also need to find a different place for our April program this year as the Institute will be unavailable that month due to the Festival of Nations' equipment storage needs. We are currently looking for recommendations of space that you may know of—community centers, union halls, churches, or libraries would be good places. We need room for about 100 to 120 persons, a place to make and serve coffee, and audio-visual capabilities (sound systems, movie screens, etc.). One of the current possibilities would be the Christ Church Lutheran gymnasium. This is the Saarinen-designed church in the Longfellow neighborhood of Minneapolis (34th Ave. and 33rd Street) and is the place that the *Suomi-koulu* uses. The church is very welcoming and is trying to emphasize their Finnish background. Please let me, or any of the board members, know of any other places we could use. Also, note that our March program will be held a week earlier than usual. We will meet on March 14, due to Good Friday falling on the third Friday of the month. Please let others know of this change—we don't want anyone to miss the program.

Another item that came up at our last board meeting was the subject of carpooling. Several members have mentioned that they no longer drive at night and bad weather is another factor that affects their decision to attend programs. If you have room to take another person to meetings, let the board members know and we can try to connect you with a rider.

The Festival of Nations is coming up fast—May 1-4. This year the theme is "*Arts and Architecture*." FACA will again be participating in the *café* and exhibit areas. Junelle Bernard is heading the *café* once again and will be asking for volunteers for baking days and also workers during the Festival. She will have signup sheets at our next meeting so don't forget to volunteer. Kaarina Kotkavuori will again be heading our exhibit and also is looking for people to work on the exhibit itself, but especially needs people who will be in the exhibit booth stamping passports or talking to the visitors. It is very important that we have at least two people (three or four is better) in the booth all the time so that we can keep up with the stamping of passports as well as explaining the exhibit. Thanks in advance for volunteering!

Leading *Kantele* Player to Perform

Eva Alkula, one of the leading *kantele* players in Finland, will present a concert in the Carleton College Concert Hall on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 3 p.m.

Her varied program will include *Impromptus*, op.5, no. 4-6 by Jean Sibelius; the second movement (Andante) of Fridrich Bruk's *Sonata for Kantele*; *Magnolia*, by Alex Freeman; a traditional Karelia Lullaby; and music by Martti Pokela, Toivo Kuula, and Jukka Linkola.

Alkula graduated from Sibelius Academy in 2003 where she studied contemporary and classical *kantele* music. That same year she won first place in Finland's National *Kantele* Competition for soloists. She now performs as a soloist and in various chamber music groups, both in Finland and abroad. Alkula also spent a year in Japan studying the Japanese *koto*, a stringed instrument.

Eva Alkula is also appearing in the Christopher U. Light Lectureship Concert of music by Alex Freeman, composition professor at Carleton, on Friday, Feb. 8, at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall. She will play *Magnolia*, a piece written for her by Freeman in 2002. The compositions on this program represent a cross-section of Freeman's instrumental chamber works of the last seven years

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.

Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



L-R: Barbara Nikula Owens, Andreas Ostenso, Stella Arola, Alan Norgard, Kaarina Kotkavuori

The January Board meeting was convened by President Al Norgard on January 15th at the home of Kaarina Kotkakuori. The Secretary's minutes and the Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

A discussion of our *Pikkujoulu* celebration was had. It was agreed that despite our first winter snow and the bad driving conditions, the dinner provided by Soile Anderson was delicious and the event was enjoyed by all who were there. Pros and cons were expressed as to the location.

We have been notified by the International Institute that our rent at the Institute will go up from \$150 per meeting to \$225 per meeting effective January 1, 2008. Several alternative sites were discussed. In addition, the Institute will not be available for our April FACA meeting and an alternative site will be sought.

Suomi-koulu has invited FACA members to participate in the annual *Laskiainen* at Como Park Golf Course clubhouse on February 3rd. They are serving pea soup and *pulla* and will welcome any donations of either.

Future FACA programs were discussed. Prof. Arnold Alanen is scheduled to be the presenter at our March meeting which will be Friday, March 14th, as March 21st is Good Friday.

Plans for the Festival of Nations on May 1-4 and our Finnish *Café* are going forward. Junelle Bernard is in charge and is asking for volunteers for the baking day and to help at the *café* during the Festival.

The next meeting will be at President Al Norgard's home at 7:30 p.m. on February 12th.

January Program Recap

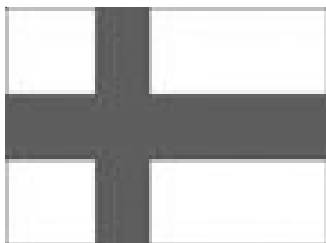
By Alan Norgard

Our January program had to be changed when our speaker, Darrel Nicholson, came down with the flu. We will try to schedule him again as soon as we are able.

As a substitute program we watched two short videos. The first was a tour of the Los Angeles Finlandia Foundation's Finnish Folk Art Museum. The museum features artifacts from the homes of rural Finland, mostly from the 1800s, to highlight the design, art, and functionality inherent in these objects. Examples of fabrics, woven items, utensils, and furniture are displayed, and their unique characteristics identified. The building where the items are shown is called the *tupa*, and is the perfect setting for all the displays. It's an old building that was once a garage for a nearby mansion and was moved and remodeled to make the museum. It must have been quite a garage, as it is a beautiful building. Other sections of the video told of the history of the Finlandia Foundation's beginnings, a brief description of the ethnic makeup of the Finns, an explanation of various types of *puukkos* (knives), and *kantele* playing.

The second video came from Minneapolis' sister city, Kuopio—a travel promotional that showed the various sights and sounds of the city in all seasons and explained why Kuopio is the modern center of Finland's Savo region. Many of the sights were familiar to anyone who has been there and would make you want to go back again to visit. If you had never been there, you could easily have been convinced to go.

Answers to **Matching**, page 6: **1) J, 2) A, 3) C, 4) B, 5) E, 6) K, 7) G, 8) F, 9) I, 10) L, 11) D, 12) H**



Festival of Nations Café

By Junelle Bernard

Plans are being finalized for the Finnish *Café* at the Festival of Nations, May 1-4 at RiverCentre in St. Paul. The menu will be similar to last year: strawberry shortcake, lemon cookies, *pulla*, pickled herring on Finn Crisp, *piirakka*, fruit punch and egg coffee. We are thinking of adding sliced reindeer sausage and Finnish cheese on Finn Crisp as an alternative to herring for those who (unbelievably) don't care for herring. Baking day will be April 26 at White Bear Lake High School. If you helped at either baking day or the *café* last year, you will be contacted to see if you are interested in helping this year. If you have not helped in the past and would like to know more or would like to volunteer, call me at (763) 434-5399 or email at SJBL2@msn.com. Look for an update with more information in next months newsletter.

Welcome New Member!

Paula Beck of St. Paul
Tervetuloa!

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.

Movie Review: *Christmas Story*

By Erin Belanger

The Finnish rendition of the “Christmas Story” is truly the best holiday film that I have seen since childhood. The story provides the audience with an orphaned boy who through several unfortunate events becomes the legendary Saint Nick.

I believe everyone in the theater was given a renewed reason to believe in Christmas. It gave us an explanation of where the jolly, fluffy beard and reindeer came from and explains the tradition of gift giving in a way that reminds all of us what the true spirit of Christmas was meant to be. I especially valued the emotional experience the film vibrates to those watching by really developing the character of Nikolas. There are no weak ineffectual affects, but only clever explanations of the possible. The film also pays tribute to the snowy landscape of Finland and to not only fellow Finns but all mankind through the lesson that no matter the odds, love will be found and shared. Whether this love is announced or legend, tradition needs no reason. The film is an instant classic.

Editor’s Note: The showing was made possible by a grant from the Finlandia Foundation. Many thanks to the Foundation and to Al Milgrom, Director, MN Film Arts. This film had just opened in Finland so we are fortunate to have experienced this one night, one city, U.S .premiere at the same time. Christmas Story played to a packed house at the Oak Street Cinema. Kiitos!

*If you missed the movie and would like to find out more, or watch a trailer: www.snapperfilms.com
MN Film Arts www.mnfilmarts.org or email
info@mnfilmarts.org*



The Perfect Springtime Gift, For You and Your Loved One

Have you been thinking about attending a concert at Orchestra Hall, but been putting it off, either because you didn’t know what was playing, or just needed that extra incentive? Here is a list of upcoming events—complete with a little Finnish twist. Purchase your tickets soon you’ll be glad you did!



Vänskä Conducts

Mahler- A Lincoln Center Preview

Thursday, April 10, 11:00 a.m. and Friday, April 11, 8:00 p.m.

Osmo Vänskä, conductor Lars Vogt, piano.

SIBELIUS *The Dryad*

SCHUMANN *Piano Concerto*

MAHLER *Symphony No. 1*

Crash! Bang! Boom! Percussion Festival II

Thursday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 8:00 p.m.

Osmo Vänskä, conductor, Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano and Kroumata, percussion ensemble

TCHAIKOVSKY *Romeo and Juliet*, Fantasy-Overture

RACHMANINOFF *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*

AHO *Symphony No. 11*

Crash! Bang! Boom! Percussion Festival Finale

Thursday, June 5, 11:00 a.m. Friday, Jun 6, 8:00 p.m.

Osmo Vänskä, conductor, Colin Currie, percussion

MAZZOLI *These Worlds in Us*

BACH *Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring*

MACMILAN *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

SIBELIUS *The Bard*, Symphony No. 6

For ticket information, contact the Minnesota Orchestra, 1111 Nicollet Mall, (612)371-5642 or (800) 292-4141. www.minnesotaaorchestra.org

Famous Finns

Why do we recognize these names? Why is each Finnish person famous? (*Answers on page 4*)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Tarja Halonen | A. ___ | Olympic champion |
| 2. Paavo Nurmi | B. ___ | Creator of Kalevala |
| 3. Artturi Ilmari Virtanen | C. ___ | Nobel Prize in chemistry |
| 4. Elias Lönnrot | D. ___ | Voted greatest Finn of all time |
| 5. Osmo Vänskä | E. ___ | Conductor |
| 6. Akseli Gallen Kallela | F. ___ | Footballer |
| 7. Eliel Saarinen | G. ___ | Designer |
| 8. Sami Hyypiä | H. ___ | Writer, painter, illustrator |
| 9. Kimi Räikkönen | I. ___ | Race car driver |
| 10. Teemu Ilmari Selänne | J. ___ | Current President |
| 11. Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim | K. ___ | Painter |
| 12. Tove Jansson | L. ___ | Hockey player |

Finnish Pasties--from <http://www.recipezaar.com/>

- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 1/4 cups ice water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5 1/2 cups thinly sliced potatoes
- 2 carrots, shredded
- 1 onion, diced
- 1/2 cup diced rutabagas
- 1 1/2 lbs. lean ground beef
- 1/2 lb. ground lean pork
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 beef bouillon cube (or 1 tablespoon beef base)
- 1/2 cup hot water

With a wire whisk, mix together flour and salt in a large bowl. Cut in shortening. Make a well in the center of the mixture and quickly stir in the ice cold water. Form dough into a ball; Set aside.

Dissolve the bouillon cube or beef base in the hot water. Combine potatoes, carrots, onion, rutabaga, ground beef, pork, salt, pepper and bouillon.

Roll out pastry dough into 6 x 8 inch rectangles. Place about 1 1/2 cups of filling in the center of each rectangle. Bring 6 inch sides together, and seal. Cut a slit in the top of each pasty to vent. Place on dull, not black, cookie sheet. Bake in 425 degree oven for 45 minutes. Makes 8-10 pasties

Who is John Morton?

By Karen Luoma-Varichak

Am I the last Finn to learn of the prominent position John Morton played in America's history?



I was fortunate to attend a lecture by Dr. Lillback on "*John Morton, the Forgotten Finnish Founding Father*" held at the Ashtabula FinnFest. Dr. Peter Lillback, of Wayne, Pennsylvania, is President and Professor of Historical Theology at Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Dr. Lillback was very eloquent and shared his passion for Morton's history with a fascinated audience. The room was overflowing with people standing and sitting in the aisles.

John Morton, whose great grandparent, Martti Marttinen, and Morton's mother were from Finland. His mother's maiden name was Ripatti. Morton lived from 1724-1777 and was from Ridley Township in Delaware County, Pennsylvania. He was elected to the Provincial Assembly where he served from 1756-1775. Morton was a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress in 1765 and filled several offices successively in Pennsylvania, including Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff, Presiding Judge of the General Court and the Court of Common Pleas. He became Associate Judge of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania in 1774, and was elected to the Continental Congress, where he was chairman of the committee which reported the Articles of Confederation. He became President of the Provincial Assembly in 1775.

According to legend, John Morton was late in arriving to a very important meeting. Everyone else had already voted, but he was allowed his vote. *John Morton was the delegate who cast the deciding vote in favor of the United States Declaration of Independence—John Morton cast his vote for independence!* It is because of him, we are a free nation today. *Kiitos John Morton!*

Pieniä Paloja

Coffee hostesses for January were **Stella Arola**, **Joan Selover**, and **Edith Boos**. Kiitos!

Finnish Prime Minister **Matti Vanhanen** recently paid a visit to Microsoft Corporation and met with chairman **Bill Gates**. Gates promised that Finland would get an opportunity to implement a program called *Windows Live@edu* free of charge at its secondary schools. The *Live@edu* project is the first of its kind worldwide, and Vanhanen noted that it meets well the goals set for the Finnish information society. While visiting with California's **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger**, Vanhanen had an opportunity to hold the sword of *Conan the Barbarian*. Governor Schwarzenegger said that his visit to Finland will probably take place in 2009 or 2010.

Kimi Räikkönen has been nominated in the "Sportsman of the Year" category of the prestigious Laureus Awards. Kimi is the current Formula1 champion.

Finland the birthplace of skating A study led by University of Oxford, physiologist Federico Formenti, suggests that the likeliest birthplace of skating is Finland. Ancient Finnish hunters and fishers who walked and skated across the southern lakes would have reduced their average winter energy needs by about 10 percent. Bone-skate archeological sites were found on lakes in southern Finland some dating back to around 3000 B.C. The study appears in this month's issue of the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society of London*.

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

Feb. 10 *Kantele* musician, Eva Alkula solo concert, Carlton College Concert Hall, 3:00 p.m. (*see p. 3*)

Feb. 15 FACA Program, *Laskiainen* Celebration with musical performance by Jonathan Rundman.

Feb 15–18 *Salolampi* Family Weekend. For more information: www.salolampi.org.

Feb 17 Newsletter copy deadline. Copy to Mary Belanger, mary.belanger@dctc.edu.

Feb 23 Finnish Genealogy Group Meeting. Dan Karvonen will discuss DNA testing. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15. For questions about the Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota and its activities, please contact: fggminfo@aol.com Subject: must include FGGMN.

March 10 *Salolampi* scholarship deadline for FACA and *Kisarit* Finnish American Folk Dancers scholarships. More information and applications, contact Kathy Jackson, (651)739-3102.

March 14 FACA Program. **Note: this is a week earlier** due to Good Friday conflict.

March 16 6th Annual St. Urho's Day Mojakka Cook-Off at Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, Minnesota. More information: <http://mojakka.com>.

April 5 Pasty and Spring Bake Sale 9:00 a.m-1:00 p.m. Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church, 13030 47th Avenue North, Plymouth.

April 26 Baking Day, Festival of Nations White Bear Lake High School, Junelle (763) 434-5399 or SJBL2@msn.com.

May 1–4 Festival of Nations, RiverCentre, St. Paul

June 6-7 Nisswa-Stämman Folk Music Festival, Nisswa.

May 9-11 *Salolampi* Work Weekend. Info: Harlan Haanpää, e-mail: harlanhaanpaa@msn.com at (218) 326-6884.

June 14 Finnish American Summer Festival, 10 am. to 4 p.m., Timber Hall, Embarrass, MN. Admission \$4; Children under 13 and members with current membership card FREE Call Marlin (218) 984-3012 or email sisuheritage@yahoo.com.

July 23–27 “Sharing the Spirit of Finland”, Finnfest 2008, Duluth.

