



**NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN
 CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.
 February/Helmikuu 2006**

FACA and Suomi Koulu's *Laskiainen* Celebration

Sunday, February 26, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., at the Como Park Ski Center Chalet Room, 1431 Lexington Avenue in St. Paul, FACA and Suomi Koulu will be hosting our annual *Laskiainen* celebration. It will be an indoor/outdoor event which will be held at the Como Park Ski Center so children and others can ski or slide. We will have the traditional pea soup and *pulla*, and a chance to meet and get to know each other and share our interests. We hope to have snow, so the children and others who want to slide and ski can do so.

The pot luck will consist of traditional *Laskiainen* food with the FACA board bringing pea soup, coffee, juice and dishes, and Suomi Koulu bringing pea soup and *Laskiais pulla*. If you would like to bring something, please bring pea soup, *pulla* or bread to share. However if you are not able to bring anything, come anyway to enjoy *Laskiainen* food and fellowship with others.

February FACA PROGRAM

Laskiainen Celebration
Sunday, February 26
2-6 p.m.
Como Pk. Ski Shelter
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

This month I want to emphasize a change in our normal routines and give you some background on an upcoming event. The FACA board has decided to join this year with Suomi Koulu to hold a joint *Laskiainen* party at the Como Park Ski Center Chalet Room and I want to encourage all of you to come and make it a memorable event. For a few years now we have been looking for ways to get FACA involved with other groups in the Twin City's Finnish community to promote our common interest in Finland and its culture. Possibly more important is the development of new friendships and ties with groups that, frankly, we may know little about. Perhaps by getting to know each other on a personal basis we can learn about each other's activities and events and help support all of them.



Lately we have seen attendance at our *Pikkujoulu* and other special events dropping, while hearing comments like "I didn't know or realize that (event name here) was held by those guys... why don't we hear about them?" In talking with members of the separate groups it is obvious that they are hearing the same thing. We all need to work together to become more successful. Admittedly, the population of Finnophiles is dropping as the generations of the immigrants and their children are passing, but there are new immigrants in the community and non-Finns who can take their places. I always enjoy finding out how people (especially non-Finns) get "hooked" on Finland. I think this usually happens when someone shares their personal interests on a one-to-one basis and finds the other shares those interests. If your personal interests happen to be Finnish, so much the better. But what we are promoting is pretty much universally human—friendship. So I am inviting everyone to come to *Laskiainen* this year and take a chance at making some new friends. The Suomi Koulu group have been holding a pretty traditional sliding and family day for a few years now (I didn't know that!); and when we approached them with the idea of inviting them to do a program in February, they suggested we could join them. This all happened since our last meeting, which is why it may seem like a little short notice, but the board felt this was a great opportunity for all.

We realize that everyone may not want to go sliding or skiing—the weather may not cooperate and give us some snow (can this be mid-winter weather we are having?)—but we want to give everyone the opportunity to just mingle and talk if they like. There will be plenty of time available to do that. If you want some topics of conversation, may I suggest one of the things the Suomi Koulu people are interested in about FACA—our Finnish conversation group. It sounds like a great idea to get them involved! We won't be having the normal potluck like we do at the Institute. See the front page article for details and addresses. Come on out and bring along some pea soup or *pulla* or bread to share. The board will have their pea soup ready!

FinnFest USA '06 in Oregon and Washington

In the 1800's, Finns went west. They couldn't go much further than the mouth of the Columbia River. In the green hills and valleys of Finntowns like Astoria, Oregon, and Naselle, Washington, these immigrants made their living by fishing, farming and logging. July 26-30 2006, Finns will again go west for FinnFest USA '06. Celebrate *sisu* and *sauna* and everything else Finnish with all your Finnish friends. For information call 800-851-FINN or see the website at www.finnfest2006.org.

Employment in Finland

The Ministry of Labor has published a revised guide to help immigrants find work in Finland. *Work in Finland (Suomeen töihin)* can be ordered from Finland Society (Suomi-Seura ry), Mariankatu 8, 00170 Helsinki, Finland, or email info@suomi-seura.fi. You can find general information on employment in Finland at www.mol.fi and on studying in Finland at www.cimo.fi.

Sing in Finnish

Singing in Finnish, A manual for Singers and Vocal Coaches, by Eugene Holman, is a comprehensive manual that will enable a singer to master the pronunciation of Finnish well enough to be able to sing Finnish songs, particularly classical songs composed in the Lied tradition. The manual is available through Suomi-Seura by emailing info@suomi-seura.fi.



Board Notes

By Luella Zibell



Barbara Nikula Owens, Andreas Ostenso, Luella Zibell, Floyd Niskanen, Richard Harju, Alan Norgard

Items for discussion and decision at the February board meeting included a review of the Pikku Joulu celebration; plans for the Festival of Nations, upcoming programs, and announcements of interest to the Finnish community.

There were 113 attendees at Pikku Joulu this year, down about 30 from 2004. There was a shortfall of \$600.

Festival of Nations is scheduled for May 4–7 in St. Paul. FACA will have a café and exhibit and will also participate in the program. Chairpersons are needed for the exhibit, and volunteers for both the exhibit and the café.

Our February meeting will be a Laskiainen celebration. We will coordinate with Suomi Koulu families for the program.

FACA will renew its membership in Suomi Seura (Finland Society) for \$135. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved.



Finns Host Nordic Ball

By Valorie Arrowsmith

Heritage groups from four Nordic countries around the Twin Cities gather together for a ball each year at the end of January, each group taking its turn to host the event. This year, the 30th Annual Nordic Ball was hosted by the Finnish *Kisarit* Dancers at Sokol Hall in St. Paul. It was called *Karhun Juhla* or Bear Celebration.

The program notes said, “In Finnish and Sami myths and legends, the bear is a symbol of power and magic. In late January, the winter sun rises higher, warming the snow above the bear’s nest. The dripping water disturbs the bear’s winter slumber. ‘Karhu kylkeänsä kaantää’ and ‘Talven selkä menee poikki’ mean ‘The bear rolls over and the back of winter is broken.’ Help us chase away winter with music, dance, food and fun.”

Each Nordic folk group performed half-hour sets. The Danes called the dances while *Ballade* performed the music; *Finn Hall* gave dancers opportunities to do the Tango; the American Swedish Institute’s *Spelmanslag* featured many *hambo* tunes; the *Hardingfelelag* and *Nyckelharpalag* offered music for *Rorøs Pols* and *Bond Polskas*; and *Ole Olsson’s Ole Time Orkestra* performed the music for the Grand March. By the end of the evening all participants had broken out of hibernation, dancing to the music of the *Allspel*, when all the musicians joined together to help guests go back to their homes in Kansas, Wisconsin, Colorado, North Dakota and Minnesota—ready to greet the next season.

Conversational Finnish Class

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

Rebirth of the Lutheran Church in Ingria, Russia

By Floyd Niskanen

The January program was an interesting presentation by Pastor Melvin Johnson about the Ingrian Lutheran Church in Russia. He started with a brief history of the church and showed on a map that the geographic areas it covered included both the areas known as Ingria and Karelia.

The Ingrian Lutheran church started way back in the 1600’s when the Czar of Russia gave special permission to those Finno-Ugric peoples to have a Lutheran church in that area. It wasn’t until 1938 that Russia under Stalin began persecuting and purging the church. The churches were closed or destroyed or changed into museums, etc. The clergy were killed, and the men of the church were either killed or sent to Siberia. So the women, in order to preserve their faith, would hide Bibles, hymnals, and other religious items. They formed an underground church and would meet in small groups, mostly in homes.

It wasn’t until 1970 that the persecution eased up and the church was able to start its rebirth. With the help of Finland and missionaries from the United States, by 1998 there were over 30 congregations. Now there are over 80 congregations and the Ingrian Lutheran Church is the fastest growing church in Europe.

Craig Johnson Performs in California

Craig Johnson of Minnesota, 1999 Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year, will be performing at the Nordic Spirit Symposium, Saturday, February 18, at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. The Symposium is titled: “On the Cutting Edge: Leading Scientific Technological, Environmental and Cultural Developments in the Nordic Countries.” For information on the symposium and on future symposiums, call or email Allan Carlson (818) 788-4552, see allan@sbcglobal.net.

Scandinavian Retreat

By Valorie Arrowsmith

Folks interested in Nordic culture are invited to attend the annual Scandinavian Retreat at Beaver Creek Reserve, Fall's Creek, Wisconsin, February 17-19. Families and adults are welcome to join students and faculty members who hail from Scandinavian programs at Upper Midwest Universities. The goal of the retreat is to strengthen ties with Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland. Fall's Creek is located near Eau Claire. The weekend features lectures, discussions, films, music, band weaving, knitting, winter recreation such as ax casting, *Kubb*, and kick-sled races, and Nordic food. There is also a Scandinavian dance on Saturday night, February 18, and musicians are invited to jam with the *Norden Folk Spelmanslag*.

Featured lecturer is Dr. Allison Spenader, who will talk about the impact the learning environment has on second language acquisition. Spenader is the Dean of the Concordia Swedish Language Village. There is a very modest fee to attend, which includes meals, the programs and bunk beds. Folks can come for the whole weekend or for just a day. For more information call 715-220-1690, or contact grr@concad.com. Schedules, photos from past retreats, and details are listed on these web sites: www.nordenfolk.org and <http://scandinavian.wisc.edu/fcr/index.html>.

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.

Shrove Tuesday Buns Laskiaspullat

3/4 cup milk
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/4 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons butter
1 envelope dry yeast
1/2 cup warm water (110° F)
1 large egg
3-3 1/2 cups flour

Glaze:

1 egg yolk
2 tablespoons milk
sugar for sprinkling

Filling

1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped
7 oz. almond paste or marzipan

Heat the milk until small bubbles form on the side of the pan. Pour into a bowl along with sugar, salt, cardamom and butter. Let cool until lukewarm. In a small bowl, dissolve the yeast in warm water, and add to the milk, along with the egg. With an electric mixer, beat in half of the flour and keep beating until the dough is smooth. Add the rest of the flour and mix with a wooden spoon until the dough forms a ball. Turn the dough onto a board and knead until smooth and elastic. Return the dough into the bowl, cover with a kitchen towel and let rise for 1 1/2-2 hours or until the dough has doubled in bulk.

On a lightly floured surface, knead the dough and divide into 12 pieces. Shape the pieces into round buns. Place the buns on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper, or lightly greased. Cover with a kitchen towel and let rise again in a warm place for 45 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 400° F. Mix the egg yolk with the milk and brush the buns with the glaze, sprinkle with sugar and bake for 15 minutes, or until nicely browned. Cool on a rack covered with a kitchen towel. When cool, split horizontally in half and fill with a slice of almond paste and a tablespoon of whipped cream.

From: The Best of Finnish Cooking, Taimi Previdi

New Additions to Salolampi Programs

Salolampi Finnish Language Village has developed a new and improved two-week program for villagers who return for four or five years and want more grammar and a more intensive language-learning experience, similar to what the high school credit program offers. The intensive learning will replace the traditional *Suomi-Koulu* rotation in the morning, while the rest of the day will consist of all the familiar Salolampi activities. To qualify for this “pre-credit” program, villagers need at least three years previous attendance and to be in the eighth grade or higher.

In all youth Salolampi programs, the “question of the day” will be replaced with a daily theme, such as home, family, time, and occupations. In addition to the ever-popular *kyykkä* (a folk lawn game from Karelia), *sauvakävely* (Nordic walking with poles), and *salibandy* (floor hockey), a new lawn game has been added—*mölkky*. New craft projects, such as felt stuffed animals have also been introduced; and for the first time, Finnish Independence Day was celebrated this past summer—complete with a traditional banquet and party at the “presidential palace.”

Salolampi Phonathon a Huge Success

Last November, the Salolampi Phonathon was held at the Lutheran Community Foundation in Minneapolis, where 32 volunteers made phone calls. Thirteen additional offsite callers reached contributors from their homes. Friends and supporters of Salolampi throughout the country responded favorably during the phonathon, making it the most successful phonathon so far. \$36,500 has been received so far, with a total of \$40,000 expected. Thank you to all who volunteered, and especially to all who donated money to the scholarship fund. This money will help even more young (and old) people learn more about the Finnish culture and language and it will help those with Finnish heritage feel proud of who they are and where they come from.

Salolampi Youth and Adult Programs

Register your youth now for the summer programs at Salolampi and take advantage of the many scholarships available. The early-bird scholarship deadline is April 1. If you register before April 1st for the one-week program, you are guaranteed \$200 in scholarships. And there are other scholarships young people may qualify for, too. See www.salolampi.org for more information and for an application, or call 800-222-4750. See FACA calendar for program dates.

Adults, too, can register for a great language learning experience. The Spring Adult week will be May 14–20, and the popular Family Week will be June 12–17. The Finnish Village was the first to introduce the Family Week, and now three other Concordia Villages are offering summer family sessions. Some scholarships are also available for these Adult programs. You can also volunteer at the Salolampi work week end on May 12–14 and enjoy the great Finnish food, the sauna, entertainment, Finnish movies, etc. for free—well, for some scrubbing, painting, and cleaning. A \$100 scholarship for the Adult Week is also available for first-timers who come to the work week. For more details on the work weekends, call Milo Laitinen at 218-564-4266 or email him at laitinen@wcta.net. For more information on the adult programs, call 800-450-2214 or go to www.salolampi.org.

FACA and Kisarit Scholarships For 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, 2006.

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

Pieniä Paloja

- The coffee helpers at the January FACA Program were Verdie Niskanen, Barb Owens, and Doris and Richard Harju. Verdie's *pulla* was delicious, especially with the heart-friendly Benecol (developed in Finland).
- A violent explosion broke glass cabinets, windows, and a door, damaging even one partition wall at the **National Museum of Finland** in downtown Helsinki on Monday, January 23. The museum is closed on Mondays, but around 10 to 15 employees were inside the building at the time of the explosion. Fortunately no one was hurt. A jewelry exhibit entitled *Aarrekammiot* ("The Treasure Troves"), Finland's most valuable collection of silver artifacts, was severely damaged. In addition to old Finnish silver, it contains jewelry from the 18th and 19th centuries as well as the famous *Lapponia Koru* jewelry collection. The collection was worth millions of dollars. The blast is under investigation, but may have been caused by a ruptured main in Museokatu which may have leaked gas through the sewage system. Another theory is that methane from the sewage system itself may have caused the explosion.
- After two rounds of voting, **Tarja Halonen** won the 2006 Finnish Presidential election becoming the holder of the office of President of Finland for the next six-year term until 2012. The first round of voting took place on January 15. As no candidate received more than half of the votes, a second round run-off was held on 29 January. President Halonen will formally take office on March 1, and would have done so on February 1, had no run-off been necessary.

Laskianen Fun Facts

The beginning of Lent is celebrated in Finland by sledding, skiing, and sleigh riding.

Flax was an important crop in Finland before cotton became common. It was believed that long rides downhill predicted tall flax plants and a good flax crop. Sleigh riders were urged on with cries of "Pitkiä pellavia" or "Tall flax plants!"

More Calendar Items:

May 14–20 Finnish Spring Adult Week at Salolampi near Bemidji, Minnesota. \$455 per person, \$355 for commuters. Experience Finnish food, sauna, language, and culture. Call 800-450-2214. (See p.6)

June 12–17 Family Week at Salolampi. For more information call 800-450-2214 or go to www.salolampi.org.

June 19–24 Salolampi one-week youth session for ages 7–14. See www.salolampi.org for more information and for an application, or call 800-222-4750.

June 26–July 8 Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 11–18. See www.salolampi.org or call 800-222-4750.

June 26–July 22 Salolampi one-month youth credit session for grades 9–12. See www.salolampi.org or call 800-222-4750.

July 10–22 Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 8–13. See www.salolampi.org or call 800-222-4750.

July 14–16 Finn Fling celebration in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Enjoy arts, concerts, dancing, movies, golfing, theater, sports, food, workshops, and lectures. See www.finnishcanadiangrandfestival2006.com.

July 26–30 FinnFest USA '06 in Astoria, Oregon and Naselle, Washington. See www.finnfest2006.org or call 800-851-FINN for information and registration forms. (See p. 3)

FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight issues of this newsletter 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. 13–18 Finnish women's bandy team plays for the world championship in Roseville, Minnesota. The timetable has not been published, but more information can be found at www.usabandy.com or www.internationalbandy.com.

Feb. 17–20 Family Fun Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Call 800-450-2214 or see www.salolampi.org.

Feb. 18, Sat. Finn Hall will play at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co. 6:30–8:30 p.m., 215 E. Hennepin Ave., Mpls (612-379-3018). Great food, dance space, \$2 cover charge.

Feb. 22, Wed. Deadline for articles and event information for the March FACA newsletter. (See p. 2 for contact information.)

Feb. 26, Sun. Laskiainen celebration from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Como Park Ski Center Chalet Room, 1431 Lexington Avenue in St. Paul hosted by FACA and Suomi Koulu. Come enjoy pea soup, bread and pulla—and ski and sled if you would like. For more details, call a member of the FACA board. (See p. 2)

Feb. 26, Sun. Finn Hall will be playing for the Sunday night Scandinavian Dance at the Good Templar Hall from 6 to 9 p.m., Cedar and Lyndale Ave., Minneapolis. Dance instruction at 5 p.m., social dancing from 6–9 p.m. Everyone is welcome, no partners necessary. Join in the fun of dancing to great live music. \$7/\$8 with dance lesson. Potluck snacks always welcome. See www.finnhall.com for complete schedule.

Mar. 10, Fri. Deadline for applications for FACA and Kisarit scholarships to Salolampi Finnish Language Village. For information and an application, contact Kathy Jackson at 651-739-3102, 3225 Century Ave. S., Woodbury, MN 55125. (See p. 6)

May 4–7 Festival of Nations at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Volunteers needed at the exhibit and café. Contact any board member. (See p. 2 for phone numbers.)

May 12–14 Spring Volunteer Work Weekend at Salolampi. Come clean, paint, cut wood, etc. Free lodging and entertainment. For more details call Milo Laitinen at 218-564-4266 or email him at laitinen@wcta.net.

More calendar, pg. 7