

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

January/Tammikuu 2007

New Friends, Fresh Ideas, Common Heritage

Uusia ystäviä, Tuoreita ideoita, Yhteinen perinne

Presented by Jukka Kukkonen

We would like to invite the entire Finnish community to have fun together, learn more about each other and create new ideas for building Finnish community in Minnesota. We would especially like to see people who don't usually come to FACA meetings to come to this one so we have a good representation from all different flavors of "Finnishness" in Minnesota. We will create new ideas in small group discussions, share our thoughts in a larger group and choose the most popular ideas for further development. Come to this interactive session ready to share your thoughts and learn more about others.

This session will be facilitated by Jukka Kukkonen, a teacher in the Finnish Language School of Minnesota (*Suomi-koulu*) here in Minneapolis. Jukka Kukkonen grew up on a small dairy farm in Savonlinna, Finland. He has worked in engineering, business development, training and organizational development. He met his wife Susie through work and moved to the US in 2002. Here in the Twin Cities Jukka has been very actively involved with the Finnish community. He has been a teacher at Suomi-koulu since 2003 and is responsible for publishing the monthly Minnesota Suomiinfo e-newsletter and developing the www.MinnesotaFinnish.org web pages.

Tervetuloa pitämään hauskaa yhdessä ja innovoimaan uusia tapoja kehittää suomalaista yhteisöämme täällä Minnesotassa. Haluaisimme kutsua mukaan ihmisiä eri suomalaisista organisaatioista ja erityisesti olisi mukava saada mukaan ihmisiä, jotka eivät yleensä käy FACA:n kuukausikokouksissa. Näin saamme kuulla ajatuksia eri osista Suomiyhteisöä. Kehitämme ideoita yhdessä pienryhmäkeskustelujen avulla, jaamme tuotoksemme muiden kanssa ja valitsemme ideoista suosituimmat edelleen kehitettäväksi.

JANUARY FACA PROGRAM

**New Friends, Fresh Ideas,
Common Heritage
Jukka Kukkonen**

7:30 p.m.

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

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

Tämän englanninkielisen luennon vetää Minnesotan Suomi-koulun opettaja Jukka Kukkonen. Jukka Kukkonen kasvoi pienellä maatilalla Savonlinnassa. Hän on työskennellyt tekniikan, liiketoiminnan kehittämisen, koulutuksen ja valmennuksen saralla. Jukka tapasi vaimonsa Susien työn kautta ja muutti Minnesotaan 2002. Hän on opettanut Suomi-koulussa vuodesta 2003 lähtien. Opettajan työn lisäksi Jukka vastaa Minnesotan Suomiinfon ja Suomisivujen toiminnasta.

The program will be held Friday, January 19, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

FACA 2006–2007 Board of Directors

President:

Alan Norgard
651-786-5988
norgard@winternet.com

Vice President/Program Chair:

Floyd Niskanen
763-540-0121
fniskanen@aol.com

Secretary:

Luella Zibell
651-482-1965

Treasurer/Publicity:

Andreas Ostenso
651-646-9604
tostenso@yahoo.com

Hospitality/Special Activities
Chair: **Kaarina Kotkavuori**

Special Activities Director:

Barbara Nikula Owens
651-774-3551
barbnikulaowens@yahoo.com

FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:

Tiina Watts
763-323-6690
tiiwatts@usfamily.net

Co-editor:

Mary Belanger
mary.belanger@dctc.edu
218-839-1566

Graphic Design:

Beth Jarvis
763-536-9561
brjarvis@umn.edu

Contributing Writers:

**Al Norgard, Luella Zibell,
Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen**

Mailing:

Urho and Pam Rahkola

President's Message

By Alan Norgard



Another Christmas season has just flown by in a blur of festivities and lights. Even though it was mostly snow-less, we did get snow just before Christmas Day to brighten the mood.

One person commented on a rainy late December afternoon that “it didn’t really look right—people with *umbrellas* running from store to store carrying their presents.”

This year’s Independence Day celebration was a special event at Christ Church Lutheran (the Saarinen-designed church in Minneapolis). The event featured a performance by the *Singing Strings*, refreshments—including Kaariina Kotkavuori’s *karjalan piirakka* (which disappeared as soon as they were put on the table)—and Jukka Kukkonen’s tape of this year’s broadcast of the Finnish President’s Reception. They all added up to a very “Finnish” feeling to the evening.

Even without snow our annual *Pikkujoulu* was a picturesque evening again with all the skaters and hockey players in front of a background of lighted spruce trees. About 150 people attended this year and they were treated to a delicious buffet from Soile Anderson’s Deco Catering. All the favorite foods were there; Finn Hall provided music and led the caroling; some lucky people received door prizes from FinnStyle; and others won gifts from the *Suomi-koulu* drawings. It was fun listening to *Finn Hall*’s music, especially when they were playing a *schottische* with all the skaters in the background—it looked like a scene from a movie. Even if the skating was not in time to the music it seemed somehow appropriate. Our Sauna Bucket award was given this year to Tiina Watts, our out-going newsletter editor. She is a well deserved winner, serving as editor for the last nine years of putting out a first-class *Uutiset* month after month. Thank you for all your work, Tiina! And of course the children especially liked the visit from *Joulupukki* who took their gift requests. Then, they had an opportunity to sing and dance with him—it’s not often they get to do that! Thanks again to all who volunteered to make the event special and also to all of you who attended – I hope you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Another highlight for me this year was the *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* held at St. Michael’s Church in Roseville. I always enjoy going there and singing carols that have become my favorites even though I didn’t grow up hearing all of them. There is some wonderful music that you don’t usually get to hear in the standard Christmas repertoire here in America.

I hope all of you enjoyed your Christmas season and I would like to wish you *Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!*

Nordic Ball

Det Norske Folkedanslaget invites you to the annual Nordic Ball on January 27, 2007 from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. Live music will be provided by the Twin Cities *Hardingfelelag*, the *ASI Spelmanslag*, *Finn Hall*, the *Minnesota Scandinavian Ensemble*, the Twin Cities *Nyckelharpalag*, *Ole Olsson's OldTime Orkestra*, and *Ballade*. Tickets are \$18 in advance or \$20 at the door. For ticket purchasing information, contact Geri Eikaas, (952) 470-9016, geikaas@hotmail.com, or send a check made out to *Det Norske Folkedanslaget* and a self-addressed, stamped, return envelope to Geri at 2763 Ches Mar Farm Road, Excelsior, MN, 55331.

Twin Cities Laskiainen 2007

Laskiainen in 2007 will be one of the activities arranged in cooperation with the Twin Cities Finnish Network, celebrating Finland's 90th year of independence. The date is February 18, time and place are tentative, but we are planning from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Ski Chalet at Como Park.

The *Laskiainen* program will feature the "North American Qualifying Trials of the 20th Kicksled World Championships." Yes, there will be races in various categories with prizes! We will also host a buffet of pea soup, *pulla* and coffee for a nominal fee (\$5 suggested). A surprise entertainer may be included.

The Finnish Language School of Minnesota invites all area Finns and Finlanders to celebrate Finland's 90th birthday at *Laskiainen*. Go to www.minnesotafinnish.org calendar to confirm location and exact time or call (651) 489-8036. Information about the Kicksled World Championships can be found at www.multia.fi/potkut/index.htm.

Board Notes *By Luella Zibell*



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

The November meeting of the Board began with the standard reports from the secretary and treasurer and a brief discussion on membership.

Final details for *Pikkujoulu* were discussed and decided; we chose Tiina Watts as the winner of the Sauna Bucket Award; Barbara volunteered to do the treat bags for the children; Luella will be responsible for tablecloths, cups, napkins, and the glögg; there are eight servers lined up; we have a *Joulupukki* (Santa Claus) and the Banttaris will provide the greens, candles and poinsettias for the centerpieces.

Other agenda items included our status for sales tax exemption, the website, new business cards, upcoming programs, the *Laskiainen* celebration, and hosts for the meetings.

The next meeting of the board will be Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville.

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 _____
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Thank You to Salolampi Phonathon Callers!

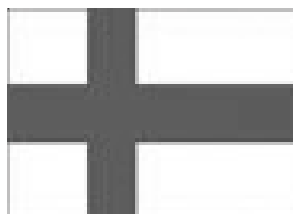
It is still early, but it appears that as of the end of December, we are running a little behind last year's impressive record of pledges totaling \$35,000 for the scholarship fund.

Once again the Lutheran Community Foundation in Minneapolis gave the Salolampi Foundation use of their phones free of charge for three evenings. Approximately 1,000 of the total mailing list of 8,000 homes were reached. Readers who did not receive a call are encouraged to send their gifts to: Salolampi Foundation, P.O. Box 14480, Minneapolis, MN 55414-0480. Large or small, every amount is a helpful addition to the scholarship fund.

Callers on-site in the Twin Cities were Ernest and Marlene Banttari, Junelle and Laura Bernard, Clare Carlson, Linda Davis, Evelyn Eskeli, Richard Harju, Susan Harstad, Gene Karjala, Bob Katvala, Jim Kultala, Theresa Lund, Wayne Mikkola, Marvin Nevala, Carol Pesola, Ray Pesola, Pamela Rahkola, Urho Rahkola, Dan Salin, Delores Salin, Tiina Watts, and Mary Westerberg.

Additional off-site callers who sought pledges from their homes were Mike and Elaine Anuta, St. Paul, MN; Linda Applegate, Bruce Crossing, MI; Joanne Bergman, Angora, MN; Mary Ann Goms, Hibbing, MN; Gil Kinnunen, West St. Paul, MN; Ken and Fran Lahti, Eveleth, MN; Bea and David Meyers, Holiday, FL; Karen Michael, Sun Lakes, AZ; Marvin Nevala, Amery, WI; Vergene Ollila-Routhe, Shoreview, MN; Bette and Aune Ruskanen, Plymouth, MN; Helen Steffen, Webster, WI; and Amy Tervola-Hultberg, New York Mills, MN.

A sincere thank you to all the volunteers and the Lutheran Community Foundation from the 2006 Phonathon Committee (Evelyn Eskeli, Linda Davis, Marlene Banttari, Carol Pesola, and Junelle Bernard).



Sibelius and Beethoven at Orchestra Hall

Enjoy an evening of Sibelius and Beethoven at Orchestra Hall on Saturday, February 10, with the Minnesota Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä. A reception follows the concert, with a special visit from Maestro Vänskä.

The concert program features two pieces by Jean Sibelius--*In Memoriam* and *Symphony No. 4*—as well as Beethoven's well-known *Symphony No. 5*.

This evening is planned in conjunction with a visit to the Twin Cities by the FinnFest USA Board of Directors. Following the concert, join the board members and others at the reception, with an opportunity to greet Maestro Vänskä.

Tickets for the concert and reception are \$65.00 each, with seats located on the main floor. (For those already holding tickets for that evening, a reception ticket is \$12.00.) Tickets will be available that evening before the concert next to the Will-Call window at Orchestra Hall.

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.

This evening concert event is part of the year-long *Celebrate Finland: 2007*, featuring Finnish activities and events in the Twin Cities during Finland's 90th year of independence. For more information, go to Minnesota Finnish pages at www.minnesotafinnish.org and click on Twin Cities Finnish Network.

Welcome New Members!
Lorraine Niemelä, Minneapolis
Reino Paaso, Minneapolis
Tervetuloa!

The Metrodome and Professional Sports

Review by Floyd Niskanen

The November program was an interesting presentation about the Metrodome and professional sports, by Steve Maki, the Director of Facilities and Engineering at the Metrodome.

Steve began by talking about the early ball parks in the Twin Cities with the minor teams such as the *Millers*. Then in 1961 the pro-sports teams, the *Twins* and later the *Vikings*, played at the outdoor Metropolitan stadium in Bloomington, which did not always work well. The economics started changing with more fans and by the 1970's the teams' use agreements with the Metro Sports Area Commission (a political subdivision of the state) expired. The Vikings were more popular and were driving for a new stadium. When the Twins decided to go along with them, they were able to get the Metrodome in Minneapolis in 1982 at a cost of about \$55 million. The dome was designed for the Vikings so the geometry was not the best for baseball. In 1984, the U of MN Gopher football team started playing at the dome and Memorial Stadium was torn down at the U of MN. Recently, the Gophers received approval for a stadium on campus. After completing fundraising, the University's new stadium will have an estimated completion in 2009.

The Twins have been pushing for a new stadium and recently received legislative approval for it. The ballpark will be sited in Minneapolis. They also gave \$120 million of the \$500 million needed to get approval. The ballpark is scheduled to be completed in 2010. Hennepin County will have a .015% sales tax to help pay for it. The Vikings also desire a new stadium. Their lease at the dome is up in 2011 and the old 1970's designed Metrodome doesn't compete with the other new stadiums which have lots of special seating.

How do Minnesota residents value pro-sports? The commission wants to keep pro-sports in Minnesota, but the question becomes, where should the state and communities spend their money? Schools, welfare, sports, etc? Sports have some value for society with teams making money and the state and cities taxing ticket prices and athletes' salaries. Presently the dome has been doing well with about 300 events during the year and only about three weeks of no events.

Pikkujoulu Photos



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.

The Search is Over!

A newsletter editor has been found! Mary Belanger has volunteered to take over the job of FACA newsletter editor, much to the delight of the current editor who has been doing the newsletter for nine years. Mary lives in Long Lake, Minnesota,



Monday through Wednesday, where she teaches classes in prepress, printing, proofreading and other software related graphic arts classes in the Visual Communications Program at Dakota County Technical College. The rest of the week she lives in Brainerd. She has published a newsletter for Vintage Sports Car Racing and Vintage Vee Racing with her husband, Jon. She has also been involved in newsletters on annuities and the dental industry.

Mary grew up in Upper Michigan to Finnish parents and visited Finland as a teenager. She has three kids—a daughter Erin, 23 and two sons, 20 (yes, twins), Jacob and Errol. Her husband, Jon, is General Manager for Donnybrooke Racing. He's not Finnish, but does like a good sauna!

Welcome Mary, and we thank you for volunteering! Being the FACA editor is hard work, but very rewarding. And as the outgoing editor, Tiina Watts, I would like to thank everyone who has helped with the newsletter in any way. My committee is wonderful! Thanks to Beth Jarvis for her hard work late at night putting the articles I send her into place, adding nice pictures, and getting it all to Griffith Printing in St. Paul. Thanks to the proofers, Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen (still on the mend from his fall down the stairs) and Urho Rahkola. Many thanks to Pam and Urho Rahkola (but mostly Pam) for stamping and mailing the newsletters. And thanks to those who write articles for the newsletter and send information on events—Al and Betsey Norgard, Floyd Niskanen, and many others. Keep up the good work. And remember, anyone can send an article, book review, Finnish poem or artwork, photographs, event review, etc. to the editor. We would also like to include more news on our FACA members: engagements, graduations, anniversaries, and other special events.

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.

For the February issue of the newsletter, you can all send information by email to Mary at mary.belanger@dctc.edu or if necessary by regular mail to 44 Apple Glen Rd., Long Lake, MN 55356. You can call her at (218) 839-1566, if you have questions. I will also be helping as co-editor for a couple of months.

We are still looking for a “roving reporter of Finnish news” for the newsletter. This would be someone who reads the *Helsingin Sanomat* and other Finnish newspapers and can email interesting summaries of articles to our editor to include in the newsletter as there is extra room, either as an article, or in *Pieniä Paloja*. These articles would preferably be about the arts and culture (since we are Finnish American *Cultural* Activities), or news items about Finland in general that would be of interest to Finns and Finnish Americans in Minnesota. Contact Mary or Tiina if you are interested.

Pieniä Paloja

- The Finnish version of the popular game **Cranium** can be found at Target.com. Go to: http://www.target.com/gp/detail.html/ref=br_1_12/601-0402635-2809716?ie=UTF8&frombrowse=1&asin=000BI7NEC
- A great big thank you to our servers at Pikkujoulu: **Dixie Luoma, Ernest and Marlene Banttari, Stella Arola, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jane Olson, Edith Boos, and Dan and Delores Salin.**
- Congratulations to **Andreas Ostenso** (FACA Treasurer) and **Kaisa Taipale** who have recently become engaged.
- If you are driving in Finnish Lapland or the Oulu area of Finland this winter, beware of the unusually large numbers of **reindeer** moving around on the roads. The dry summer and autumn has forced animals to wander far afield looking for food. The reindeer are also attracted by the salt on the roads. The Road Administration has experimented with less tasty salt, but that has proved to be too expensive. Fortunately, serious injuries to people are rare in reindeer accidents, though the reindeer itself usually dies and the car is damaged.
- A surge in productivity has brought exceptional growth to the **Finnish economy** and the unemployment rate has declined to 6.7% in November, a decline of 1.3 percentage points from a year back. In January to September this year overall production grew by more than six per cent, and the estimate for growth in the whole year is 5.9 per cent, which is one point higher than had been predicted in the summer. Thus, growth this year has doubled from last year. On the other hand, the Finance Ministry also predicts that the party will be over fairly soon. Already next year's growth is expected to recede to its normal level of three per cent.

Free Beginner Finnish Class
Thursday evenings at 7:00
Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church,
11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth.
For information call Floyd Niskanen
at 763-540-0121.

More Calendar, con't. from p. 8

- 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. (See p.4)
- 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 (800) 450-2214.
- Feb. 18, Sun.** FACA's and Suomi-koulu's *Laskiainen* celebration will be held tentatively 2 to 6 p.m. at the Ski Chalet at Como Park. There will be sledding, of course, and a buffet of pea soup, *pulla* and coffee for a nominal fee (\$5 suggested). A surprise entertainer may be included. Go to www.minnesotafinnish.org calendar to confirm location and exact time or call (651) 489-8036. (See p.3)
- 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 Milo Laitinen at laitinen@wcta.net or call (218) 564-4266.
- May 13–19** Salolampi Spring Adult Week. For details email kennedy@cord.edu or call (800) 450-2214 or see the website at www.salolampi.org.
- July 26–28, 2007** Finnfest USA 2007 at Ashtabula, Ohio, with the theme: "A Great Lake; A Great Heritage." See www.finnfest2007.org for program and registration information.

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



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. 1–22 Art Exhibition at Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan about Minnesota architect David Salmela in the FAHC gallery. See www.finlandiauniversity.org.

Jan. 19, Fri. FACA Monthly Program, featuring Jukka Kukkonen leading a discussion on ways to build the Finnish community in Minnesota and share our “Finnishness” with each other. Program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

Jan. 19–20 Finn Hall will be playing at various times during the Heikinpäivä Celebration in Hancock, Michigan. Check for updated information at www.cityofhancock.com

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

Jan. 24, Wed. Deadline for articles, event information, etc. for the February FACA newsletter. Send text to the new editor, Mary Belanger, and photos to Beth Jarvis. (See p. 2 for contact information.)

More calendar items, p. 7

Jan. 27, Sat. Annual Nordic Ball from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with a grand march at 7:30 p.m., at Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan Street, St. Paul, Minnesota (located above the Glockenspiel Deli). Music by *Hardingfelelag*, the *ASI Spelmanslag*, *Finn Hall*, the *Minnesota Scandinavian Ensemble*, the *Twin Cities Nyckelharpalag*, *Ole Olsson's OldTime Orkestra*, and *Ballade*. Tickets: \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Contact Geri Eikaas, (952) 470-9016, geikaas@hotmail.com, or send a check made out to *Det Norske Folkedanslaget* and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Geri at 2763 Ches Mar Farm Road, Excelsior, MN, 55331. See also ww.sokolmn.org for details. (See p. 3).

Feb. 1–3 Osmo Vänskä conducts the Minnesota Orchestra as it plays Sibelius' *Nightride and Sunrise*, Symphony No. 5, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. For tickets or information, call (612) 371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.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.