

# FACCA



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

January/Tammikuu 2009

### *The History of Finland through the Eyes of Castrén and Snellman*

**Presented by: Eija Warma**



Eija Warma, an attorney from Helsinki, Finland, will talk about issues in Finnish history from the point of view of the law firm Castrén and Snellman. Eija joined Castrén and Snellman Attorneys Ltd. in April 2005 and is a member of the Finnish Bar Association. She is now studying at the University of Minnesota Law School in their LL.M program and will graduate in May 2009. (The LL.M program is a one-year program that provides foreign lawyers with a rigorous academic experience, exposing them to American law and a broad array of legal skills and knowledge).

This year Castrén and Snellman, the oldest law firm in Finland, celebrated its 120th anniversary! The firm was founded in 1888 by Kaarlo Castrén and Frans Emil Snellman and, during its long history, has seen the development of the nation of Finland and represented many clients, including some famous cases in Finnish history—one of the most famous cases was the President Risto Ryti's war trial in 1945–1946.

Eija will talk about the firm and some of these cases, and also discuss the development of the Finnish attorney market within the past decades. During this time Castrén and Snellman grew rapidly; it now numbers 100 lawyers in three offices—the main office in Helsinki and two international offices in St. Petersburg and Moscow, Russia.

#### NOVEMBER FACCA PROGRAM

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

Eija Warma was born and grew up in Espoo, second daughter of Mauri and Maija-Leena Warma. She attended Haukilahti College in Espoo and began her law studies at the University of Lapland, Rovaniemi. In 2002–2003, she was an exchange student at Tulane Law School in New Orleans—her first visit to U.S. In May 2004 she graduated from the University of Lapland with Master of Laws Degree. She plans to return to Castrén and Snellman in Helsinki later this year.

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## President's Message

by *Kaarina Kotkavuori*

I hope that you all had a lovely holiday season. It was wonderful to have so many people attend *Pikkujoulu*. It was great to see long time friends and meet people for the first time. The saying "the more the merrier" was certainly true.



I have a bit of a problem—one of my shoes is missing. I now have a connection with Cinderella: I attended a party, lost a shoe and am still waiting for my Prince. If anyone found a black velvet shoe among their things when all was packed up after the party, please let me know.

I had a lot of fun celebrating *Pikkujoulu*. First was the FACA event. The day after our *Pikkujoulu*, I attended *Pikkujoulu* at the St. Anthony/Salo Sister city celebration. Marianne Wargelin gave a very interesting lecture, followed by a presentation by three high school students who will be traveling to Salo, Finland in February to attend a conference with students from seven other countries. I look forward to hearing about their trip when they return. The third *Pikkujoulu* was in Lake Worth, Florida where I was visiting my father.. The Christmas season was filled with joy.

We have many wonderful events within the Finnish community coming up during this year. Our vice-president, Jeanne Swope has found an interesting speaker for our January program. In February, we will once again enjoy our potluck dinner (with the board members bringing different versions of pea soup). Last year we enjoyed both soup and excellent desserts. In May, we will be participating in Festival of Nations. Also in May, FinnFest USA 2009 will be celebrated on a cruise from Seattle to Alaska. In June, we have the opportunity to participate in the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Fargo. On the third Sunday of each month, we can watch a Finnish film. In addition to all this, we can go to dance and listen when Finn Hall plays at scheduled events (see the calendar listings).

As a reminder, we will be printing copies of our membership list to be given to our members in March. Please contact me, if you do not want to be on the distributed copy. This list will not be available on the Web.

We have a lot of wonderful people in our organization with a variety of talents. We need the participation of all of our members. It is really great that so many people attend the programs. If you have ideas on speakers for our programs or things you would like to see added to our programs, please mention them to one of the board members. We also have an array of volunteer opportunities. Every one is needed.

Please come to the January program, enjoy a cup of coffee before the program, welcome the speaker and enjoy conversation with each other.  
*Tervetuloa.*

## Salolampi Scholarship Deadline

FACA offers scholarships of \$100 to *Salolampi* Exploration Session Villagers and \$200 to Youth Immersion Villagers who are children or relatives of a FACA member. Request information and application from Kathleen Jackson, 3225 Century Ave. S., Woodbury, MN 55125; (651) 739-3102. Application deadline: March 10, 2009.



### Get the FACA newsletter electronically!

The *Utiset* e-newsletter is fast, convenient and costs FACA less to produce and distribute. E-mail Andreas Ostenso at [tostenso@yahoo.com](mailto:tostenso@yahoo.com) with questions.

### 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 Andreas Ostenso, Jeanne Swope, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jane Olson, and Stella Arola.

The board met at the home of Andreas Ostenso on November 18th. The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

Our president, Kaarina, reported that there would be no Finnish Independence Day celebration in light of our *Pikkujoulu* on December 6th, but instead, there would be a tree lighting at WCCO/Peavey Plaza (the tree being donated through the efforts of Marianne Wargelin, our honorary Finnish Consul). Among upcoming events, St. Anthony, sister city of Salo, Finland is having a *Pikkujoulu* on Sunday, December 7th, in the St. Anthony Town Hall, at which Diane Jarvi will perform. There will be a Scandinavian Holiday Celebration at Landmark Center on Sunday, December 14th, and Christ Church Lutheran is holding a fundraiser on January 10th, at which *Ameriikan Poijat*, among others, will provide the entertainment.

The final details of our December 6th *Pikkujoulu* were worked out and volunteers were sought for decorating and serving

Jeanne, our vice president/program chair, was unsure of our program for January 18th (but has since confirmed that our speaker will be Eija, Warma, a Finnish attorney, who will discuss famous Finnish legal cases).

The next board meeting will be held at the home of Jeanne Swope on January 13th.

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*Hyvää Uuta Vuotta!*  
**Happy New Year!**

# Pikkujoulu 2008



## Pikkujoulu

By Kaarina Kotkavuori

*Pikkujoulu* was celebrated on Saturday, December 6 at Christ Church Lutheran. “The Christmas Story” was beautifully read in Finnish by Tuomas Sivula, from *Suomi-koulu*. Kip Peltoniemi added to our merriment with his accordian and jokes.

One of the highlights of *Pikkujoulu* is the presentation of the Sauna Bucket Award. It was a great pleasure to announce that this year’s award was presented to Bette and Aune Ruskanen. This year’s winners have been active in FACA for many years. They have been involved in Festival of Nations activities: volunteering on the exhibit committee, working in the *café*, the exhibit booth and on baking day. They took a turn every year bringing refreshments to our program. Bette is also part of *Kisaret*, the Finnish Folk Dance group. Sadly, Aune past away in October; however, her spirit lives on in the memories of everyone who knew her. Bette and Aune are known to always have a smile and a cheerful attitude that welcomed everyone with true *sisu* spirit. Congratulations!

The celebration was enjoyable because so many people contributed their time and talents. A beautiful handmade quilt was donated for raffle by Edie Boos. The lucky winner Clyde Lund.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make the evening a success. Keith Olson provided valet services. Soile Anderson and her staff at Deco Catering presented a table that both looked and tasted wonderful. Our servers were: Edie Boos, Stella Arola, Bette Ruskanen, Ruth Wilkman, Linda Mehle School, Kathy Chambless, Jane and Anna Olson. Risto Sivula of *Suomi-koulu*, Dan Selin, Ernie Banttari and Darrel Nicholson provided the *tori*. Delores Selin and Dennis Halme led us in song. Randy Peck shared his jolly self to amuse one and all. Al Norgard printed the invitations, programs and name tags. Marlene Banttari provided poinsettias and candles. Andreas Ostenso received the reservations. Ruth Wilkman prepared the *glogg*. I am sorry that we did not have a sign in sheet for the people who came to help decorate. The room looked very festive. Each table looked beautiful with candles, poinsettias and ribbons. We also thank Christ Church Lutheran for letting us use their facility.

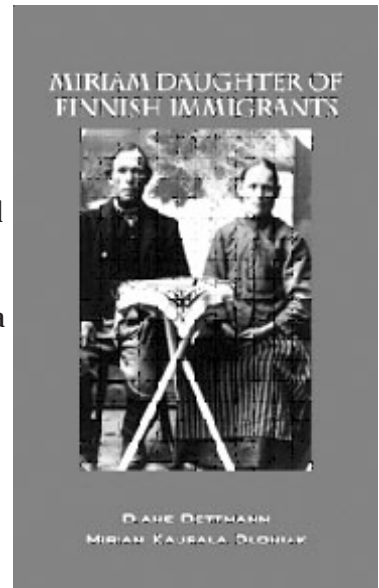
*Kiitos!*

## November Program Recap

By Jeanne Swope

At the November FACA program, Diane Dettmann talked with us about *Miriam, Daughter of Finnish Immigrants*. Diane wrote the book with her aunt, Miriam Kaurala Dloniak. It describes the life the Kaurila family of Babbitt, Minnesota, during the 1920s and 30s.

Miriam Kaurala Dloniak was born in 1919. Her parents, Paul (Paavo) Kaurala and Hilja Lukkarila Kaurila, immigrated to America from Kiuruvesi and Simo, Finland, respectively, and raised their large family in spare surroundings but energetic, *sisu* spirit.



The book tells family stories about life on the farm near Babbitt, Paul’s work in the underground mines of Ely and Tower-Soudan, and education in the small country school house. Miriam wanted to have a written history of the Kaurila family so that future generations could know about their roots and about how her parents struggled to give their family the bare necessities of life. She and Diane also wanted to have a record of the values and devotion that the family shared and passed on to the following generations.

Miriam eventually settled in Pennsylvania, and started writing her childhood memories in the late 1980s.

In 1991, while in a Master’s program at Hamline, Diane interviewed Miriam for a family history story that was published in the *Hamline Education Journal*.

Eventually, the first edition of the book was published in 1995 by Sampo Publishing. The book is in print again now through Outskirts Press. It is reprinted in memory of Miriam.

If you missed the November program but want to read the book, you can find it on Amazon.com. Perhaps it will inspire you to write your own family history—that would be Diane’s hope!

## Finnish Christmas Room at the American Swedish Institute

A Christmas party setting in the music room of the American Swedish Institute featured mannequins in costumes from six regions of Finland arranged around the room. There were two decorated trees. The one in the music room was decorated with homemade straw and wood ornaments. A second decorated tree, in the adjoining foyer, displayed a garland of Finnish flags and highlighted a costumed mannequin.

A table was set with *iittala* porcelain and Alvar Aalto crystal on a Marimekko runner, along with traditional Christmas treats— *Joulu tortut* (Christmas tarts), *pulla* (cardamom braid) and *kirvapuustit* (cinnamon ears). Red candles in wood candleholders, wood vases holding large cinnamon sticks all surrounded by greens and red holiday balls decorated the mantle.

The colorful men's and women's costumes, graciously loaned by the *Kisariit* Finnish American Folk Dancers, represented Padasjoki, Seiskari, Etelä Pohjanmaa, Kainuu, Kurikka and Härmä Isokyrönseutu in Keski Pohjanmaa. Elina Ruppert from FinnStyle in the Gavidae, downtown Minneapolis, provided table accessories. Marlene and Ernie Banttari designed the trees and food display.



### FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight issues of this newsletter plus other benefits for \$25. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check mailing label for membership expiration date.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Pieniä Paloja

- Jeanne Swope, Bette Ruskanen and Phyllis Kiihn were the servers at the November program. *Kiitos!*
- Repair men in Joensuu recently opened a box of wall tiles sent from Italy and out jumped a very large South European grasshopper. The latte-colored insect traveled in a cramped box, making them ideal passengers on any low-budget airline.
- The painting *Red Apples* by Finnish painter **Helene Schjerfbeck** was sold recently at a Helsinki auction house. The work of art was acquired by the Finnish Ateneum Art Mueum and will be put on display in the in March.
- Looking for a summer home? Formula One driver and 2007 World Champion **Kimi Räikkönen** has put his house in the exclusive Helsinki island suburb of Kaskisaari up for sale. The asking price is said to be EUR 14.5 million, which would quite comfortably make it the most expensive “desirable residence” in Finland.
- President **Tarja Halonen** said that with Barack Obama, the United States got a youthful and enthusiastic president. Commenting at an event held in Helsinki, Halonen said that the result was historic, in that the large non-white minority in the United States is getting a clear recognition that in a functioning democracy, any good man or woman can become President.
- More than half of the Finns have their feet encased every day in shoes that are too small and too narrow for them. The average shoe sizes of young people have grown, but the shoe industry has not managed to follow in their footsteps.

### In Memoriam: Martha Lindgren

We have lost another wonderful member in Martha Lindgren, who passed away in November, at the age of 88. She helped start FACA and was always there to lend a helping hand. She attended our October program and also attended the Finnish language class. At her funeral, her son-in-law talked about how much FACA was close to her heart. Her many talents included making straw crafts and her family has gifted us with pieces of her artwork. Martha grew beautiful flowers in her garden, knew how to weld and enjoyed entertaining in her home. If there was something that needed to be done, she just did it. Martha leaves behind six children, many grandchildren and friends who will miss her. We will remember her joyful spirit, twinkling eyes and great smile.

## More Calendar Items *(from pg 8)*

**Feb 12-14** Vänskä Conducts Sibelius. Music to embolden the northern spirit in midwinter. Nielsen, from Denmark, and Sibelius, a Finn, knew a thing or two about surviving and thriving in the long winters. The symphonies they created are electrifying— and Music Director Osmo Vänskä is the world’s leading interpreter of both composers. Nielsen’s Fifth is the rush of a toboggan ride through mountains and pines; Sibelius’ Second rallied his countrymen to rise against the glowering Russian bear. Contact Orchestra Hall for additional information. [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)

**Feb 13-16** Salolampi, Family Fun Weekend provides the entire family and parents, children and grandparents a language and cultural immersion experience together. Pack your bags and join us for all the excitement that Family Fun Weekends have in store! For more information: [salolampi.org](http://salolampi.org)

**Feb. 15** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6 p.m. “Cyclomania”, <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0233509/> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Culture Through Movies Webpage or (651) 428 3155.

**Feb. 20** FACA Potluck, International Institute, St. Paul.

**Feb. 22** Traditional Laskiainen celebration held at the Como Park Ski Chalet on Sunday, February 22 from 2:00 - 6:00. Como Park Ski Center, 1431 N. Lexington Pkwy, Saint Paul, MN. 651-488-9673.

**May 17-24** FinnFest USA 2009 Cruise North to Alaska! (800) 848-7120 [www.finnfestUSA2009.com](http://www.finnfestUSA2009.com)

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FACA needs your ideas and your helping hand. If you can help with any of the committees or events, please return this form. Thanks!

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <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.



Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.  
P.O. Box 580708  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

## FACA

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc. is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

### Information

(612) 374-2718

[www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

## FACA CALENDAR

**Jan. 9** Finn Hall will be playing at Kramarczuk's. 6:30-8:45 p.m. Great food, dance space, \$3 cover. 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018.

Information: Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com), [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com), [www.kramarczuk.com](http://www.kramarczuk.com)

**Jan. 10** Friends of Christ Church Lutheran presents a Finnish Evening, of music, dance, food and entertainment 7:30 p.m. Fundraising benefit to preserve historic Christ Church Lutheran, designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen. Entertainment is provided by *Amerikan pojat*, *Kisarit* and Finn Hall. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. Adults: \$20, Youth 15 and under \$10. Tickets at the door.

**Jan. 11** Finn Hall will play for the 'Second Sunday Scandinavian' dance. Pot Luck refreshments. 6-9 p.m. Admission \$8/seniors \$6. Izaak Walton League Chapter House, 8816 West River Road, Brooklyn Park. (763) 566-8255, (651) 778-9175, Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com), [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com)

**Jan. 13** FACA Board Meeting, at the home of Jeanne Swope.

**Jan. 16** FACA Program, Finnish History. See pg. 1.

**Jan. 16-18** *Heikki Lunta* Winterfest, Negaunee, Mich. For more information: [www.negauneeirontown.com/winterfest.htm](http://www.negauneeirontown.com/winterfest.htm).

**Jan. 18** Finnish Culture Through Movies group. 6:00 p.m. "Shadow of the Eagle". [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaksipäisen\\_kotkan\\_varjossa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaksipäisen_kotkan_varjossa). Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. (651) 428-3155. For info on all movies, go to [www.minnesotafinnish.org/index](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org/index), click on groups, then Finnish Culture Through Movies.

**Jan. 24-25** *Heikinpäivä* Celebration, Hancock, Mich. [www.pasty.com/heikki/sched.html](http://www.pasty.com/heikki/sched.html)

**Jan. 29** FACA Uutiset copy deadline. Articles and photos to Mary Belanger at [Mary.Belanger@dctc.edu](mailto:Mary.Belanger@dctc.edu).

**Jan. 30** Saana Ensemble will perform at Kramarczuk's, 215 E. Hennepin Ave, Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. Starts at 6:30 p.m. More information: Elina Kala, (612) 338-3715, [vanjaeno@yahoo.com](mailto:vanjaeno@yahoo.com)

*More calendar items on pg. 7*