

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

**January 2005**  
**Tammikuu 2005**



### **Finnish State & Society on Postage Stamps** **A Presentation by Dr. Pauliina Raento**

We rarely think about stamps, even if we see them every day. However, these seemingly harmless pieces of paper are powerful in shaping images of a nation. Their colorful pictures are designed to represent that nation and they reach both domestic and international audiences. Postage stamps are part of the state's political iconography and official documents, which contribute to the construction of national narratives, collective memory, and a nation's self-image. The propagandistic value of postage stamps has been well recognized, but they serve as image-building tools even if they deliver their message in persuasive 'whispers,' instead of louder 'shouts' typical of propaganda.

Dr. Pauliina Raento's current research project is based on a study of about 1,500 Finnish stamps which were issued in Continental Finland in the twentieth century. Her presentation exemplifies what the pictures on postage stamps can tell about a nation's history, values, and sources of pride if each stamp is placed in the context of its time and space. The examined stamps narrate the evolution of the Finnish state, nation, and society and reflect the changing relationship between the state and its subjects.

Dr. Pauliina Raento is the Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies and Associate Professor in Geography at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She will return to her native Finland in the summer of 2005 to work as the Senior Research Fellow of the Academy of Finland (Finland's national science foundation). Her presentation is part of her ongoing research project "Cultural and Political Geographies of the Everyday Mundane—Landscapes, Activities, and Identities."

#### **FACA PROGRAM**

**Postage Stamps**  
**Friday, January 21**  
**7:30 p.m.**

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

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

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## President's Message

By Alan Norgard



The Christmas season has just rushed past and I have been busy with lots of events here in the Twin Cities. Again, our annual *Pikkujoulu* celebration was one of the highlights this year. We found a new venue at the Roseville Skating Center's Olympic Room, and although the turnout was lower than in previous years, the choice proved to be a good one. Thanks to all the pre-event workers who showed up to help, the room was decorated and ready when the first guests arrived. Soile Anderson again proved she is the best caterer we could ever ask for—her delicious meal of Finnish Christmas favorites is always a special treat I don't want to miss. Thanks also to the hard-working members and others who helped Soile serve the meal. I have to say that the people who didn't make it to the dinner missed some great entertainment. The *Pohjan Akat* did a fantastic job singing some familiar and also new carols and arrangements. It was fun to be able to join them as well. They are a great choir and I hope to be able to hear more of them in the future. This year's sauna bucket award winner was long overdue—Ernie Banttari. What can I say? He has dedicated so much of his time and energy to the group and Finnish culture in general that I am surprised we missed him until now. Congratulations, Ernie, on all your accomplishments! And a special word of thanks to Theresa Lund! Without Theresa we might have had a hard time getting all the details right. It is a tremendous advantage to have a helper around with past experience like hers! Thanks also to the rest of the FACA board for doing all the planning and ticket sales—there surely is a lot to do in planning *pikkujoulu* so that it goes as well as it does.

Another event that has become a new tradition, for me at least, is the *Kauneimmat Joululaulut*. This service of carols and lessons was highlighted this year with both the singing by the *Pohjan Akat* and by Osmo Vänskä, the Minnesota Orchestra's director, playing his clarinet. He accompanied the choir on "*Maa on niin kaunis*" and played solo on "*Taas kaikki kauniit muistot*," a carol I have not heard of before. I learned that this carol is the traditional start to the Christmas season, played at noon of Christmas Eve on Finnish radio. His playing was a wonderful addition to the service and showed his mastery and elegance on the clarinet. Every year this service grows in numbers and seems to attract a wide audience. I have to confess that a lot of the people there were not familiar to me. There must be more "closet Finns" around than I am aware of. Maybe they would be interested in FACA?

I hope this message finds everyone enjoying a happy and prosperous New Year and I hope to see you all sometime during the year.

## Kauneimmat Joululaulut

Beautiful children singing Finnish carols, *Pohjan Akat* presenting carols and anthems, Osmo Vänskä playing a beautiful clarinet solo and accompanying the women's ensemble, the congregation joining in singing favorite carols—all of this made for an inspiring start to Christmas week for the 200+ attendees who gathered at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Reverend Thomas Palomäki preached in Finnish, and the Reverend Craig Moran preached in English—gentle, joyful Christmas messages. The Reverends Melvin Johnson and Antti Lepistö led the steering committee which made the arrangements for this Service of Finnish Christmas Carols. The offering was designated for the Children's Ministry in Karelia.

Social time and refreshments followed the service. Our thanks to Irmeli Moran and St. Michael's Lutheran Church for hosting this event in their beautifully decorated sanctuary.

### 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.

## Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The FACA Board met twice in November, on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup>, in order to finalize plans for Pikku-joulu and conduct the regular business.



Luella Zibell, Andreas Ostenso, Alan Norgard, Floyd Niskanen

Membership renewals are being received on a regular basis, and we discussed ways to increase our membership.

Our treasurer is in the process of consolidating our bank accounts in order to be more efficient with our regular transactions.

Announcements included the Lahti Symphony Orchestra concert on January 25<sup>th</sup>, "Kauneimmat Joululaulut" on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and the Finnish Independence Day gatherings on December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome! Please call Luella Zibell at 651-482-1965 for directions.

### Help Wanted: Board Members

#### FACA, Inc is looking for individuals with the following:

- Membership in the club (Long term membership not necessary)
- Desire to help coordinate events
- Ability to work and communicate with others on projects
- Able to attend one board meeting a month (for 10 months)

#### FACA offers a long term benefits package including:

- A feeling of accomplishment
- Knowledge of Finnish events and culture
- Lifelong friendships

A resumé is not needed and no experience is necessary. Training can be on the job, but past board members with experience will be accepted

Applications accepted at any time by contacting board members

FACA is an Equal Opportunity Employer – Finnish blood not required.

## Pikkujoulu Celebration a Success

By Luella Zibell

Some 140 enthusiastic folks were treated to an evening of fine food, good music, and the opportunity to win some nice prizes. We gathered at the Roseville Skating Center Olympic Room and enjoyed a sumptuous buffet of Finnish favorites: rolled pork roast with fruit stuffing, rutabaga casserole, mashed potatoes, herring, gravlax, green salad, beet salad, cucumber salad, a variety of breads with special spreads, and more—all of this preceded by a glass of *glögg*, and topped off with a slice of strawberry torte and good coffee!

The Christmas Gospel as recorded in Luke 2 was read in Finnish by Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner. The *Pohjan Akat* Finnish women's vocal ensemble entertained us with songs of our heritage and Christmas carols, all imaginatively arranged and artfully performed. The women are multi-talented: good singers who are also good instrumentalists and wonderful artists. They led the sing-along as well. The Sauna Bucket was awarded to Ernie Banttari for his many years of service and dedication to FACA and the Finnish community.

We also had a *tori*, which included Ernie Banttari's woodwork, Floyd Niskanen's Finnish gifts (the last of them), *Suomi koulu's* food and gifts—with an "opportunity drawing" as an extra added attraction, and *Finnstyle's* beautiful Finnish products.

Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with decorating, setting tables, and serving!



## Ameriikan Poijat Plays at Sibelius Conference

The Finnish American brass ensemble *Ameriikan Poijat* has been invited to perform at the 4th International Sibelius Conference being held at the University of North Texas in Denton, January 16–20, 2005.

*Ameriikan Poijat* joins an international list of scholars, performers, and composers convening to examine Sibelius' art from a variety of critical, musicological, and analytical perspectives. The conference boasts numerous concerts, including several American and world premieres, by an international pool of esteemed performers. Significantly, this marks the first time this prestigious event will take place outside of Sibelius's native Finland.

*Ameriikan Poijat*, directed by Dr Paul Niemistö of St. Olaf College, Minnesota, will collaborate with Sibelius scholar Dr. Michael Holmes of Washington, D.C. in a lecture concert on the brass septet compositions of Sibelius. This will be the first time this brass music has been performed outside of Finland.

Other performers at the conference include: Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, pianists Erik T.

Tawaststjerna and Folke Gräsbeck, kantele player Suvi Gräsbeck, cellist Timo Veikko Valve, violinist Nonna Knuutila, and many others.

For information about the conference and concert schedule: [www.music.unt.edu/the/sibelius](http://www.music.unt.edu/the/sibelius). For information on *Ameriikan Poijat*, contact Paul Niemistö at [niemisto@stolaf.edu](mailto:niemisto@stolaf.edu).

## Genealogy Group Meeting

The Finnish Genealogy Group will meet Saturday, January 22, at 9:30 a.m. at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, 5768 Olson Mem. Highway, Golden Valley. Topic is "Regional Work Groups". Members will split up into groups focusing on different geographical areas of Finland. They will share information, resources, ideas, etc, with others who are also researching those areas. For further information contact Joan Dwyer: 612-822-0743 or [dwyers@ties2.net](mailto:dwyers@ties2.net).

## Join a Mail List for Finnish Events

A mailing list is being compiled to inform recipients via postal mail about activities and events relating to Finland, Finns, and FinnishAmericans. It will be shared with organizations, upon request, who wish to mail invitations or information about events and activities relating to Finland. The list will be maintained by Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities.

Although many people receive information about events via email, there are also events for which invitations or other kinds of information need to be sent. Various organizations outside of the Finnish community have requested a way to inform people about their events that are connected to Finland. This postal mail list will complement the email lists that provide information in that way.

If you would like to be included on this list, contact Betsey Norgard at 651-786-5988 or norgard@winternet.com. There will also be forms to fill out at the FACA program.

## Musica Nova Helsinki 2005 Focuses on Britain

The next Musica Nova Helsinki international festival of contemporary music will be held on March 4-12, 2005 in Helsinki, Finland. The theme of the festival concerts is Focus Britannia and will, in the course of the week, be highlighting such leading contemporary UK composers as Julian Anderson, James Dillon, Jonathan Harvey and Mark Anthony Turnage. The festival will also be mirroring music by Finnish composers against that of their British colleagues. The concert by the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra on March 10 features large-scale orchestral works by two distinguished British composers, Michael Tippett and Paul McCartney, while the Avanti! and Stadia concerts will be offering a feast of contemporary British chamber music. The spotlight will once again also be trained on young Finnish artists and will also be broadly surveying contemporary Finnish music. Further information can be seen at: [www.musicanova.fi](http://www.musicanova.fi).

## She's Still Here!

Baker extraordinaire, Soile Anderson, has sold much of her *Taste of Scandinavia* business. Festival Foods has purchased her North Oaks and Little Canada locations, along with her recipes. She's retained her 25 year-old *Deco Catering* business, and the *Taste of Scandinavia* outlet at 2264 Como Ave. in St. Paul, which she has renamed the Finnish Bistro.

"I'm happy to get back to a smaller business," she said. "I feel I can better control quality. And now I have the time to do new things and have fun."

### 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.

### New Members

Welcome to new  
FACA members:  
Gordon Granroth  
of New Richmond WI  
Joan Selover,  
of Champlin MN  
Tervetuloa!

## Blueberry Bars

Mustikkapiirakka

### Crust:

2 ½ cups all purpose flour  
½ cup sugar  
1 egg, lightly beaten  
½ teaspoon baking powder  
1 cup soft butter

### Filling:

2 cups blueberries  
4 tablespoons sugar  
1 tablespoon lemon juice  
1 tablespoon grated lemon rind  
2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1/4 teaspoon salt

To make the crust, blend the flour, sugar, egg and baking powder in a large mixing bowl. Blend in the butter until the mixture resembles fine crumbs. With hands, press these together into a dough. Roll dough out on a lightly floured board to fit a 10 x 15 inch jelly roll pan, reserving about ½ cup of dough to use on top. The dough is bit crumbly, but you can pick it up in pieces and “patch” it together in the pan. With finger, form a ridge around the edge of the dough so the filling will not run over during the baking.

To prepare the filling, pour blueberries into a small mixing bowl. Stir in the sugar, lemon juice, lemon rind, cornstarch and salt. Spread the filling over the dough in the pan. Roll out the reserved portion of the dough on floured board to 1/8" thickness. Cut into strips and place in a criss-cross pattern over the filling.

Sprinkle the top with additional sugar, if desired. Bake at 375 degrees F for 25-30 minutes or until the crust is golden. Cut into squares to serve.

Makes 12 dessert; 48 bars.

Source: *Fantastically Finnish : Recipes and Traditions*,  
Recipe Editor: Bea Ojakangas

## Exhibit of Modern Finnish Churches

*Sacral Space: Modern Finnish Churches*, an Architectural Exhibition presenting 12 modern Finnish churches that demonstrate the uniqueness and quality of post WW II church architecture in Finland, will be on view January 18 to February 19, 2005 at the Scandinavia House in New York City. The exhibit, comprised of drawings, photographs, videos, and three dimensional models, includes Erik Bryggman's *The Resurrection Chapel*, Alvar Aalto's *The Church of the Three Crosses*, and Kristian Gullichsen's *Kauniainen Church*, among others.

Modern Finnish church architecture is a unique phenomenon; in terms of both quantity and quality it is difficult to find comparison elsewhere in the world. Churches and chapels were built in exceptional numbers in Finland after World War II, mostly as a result of architectural competitions. In addition to prominent architects, a large number of remarkable Finnish artists and designers contributed to the interiors, lighting, textiles, and painting of the churches. Rather than ornamentation, the most striking features of modern Finnish churches are a subtle interaction of light and space and a powerful awareness of the presence of nature. For reservations call (212) 847-9740. For more information see their website at [www.scandinaviahouse.org](http://www.scandinaviahouse.org)

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

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Pieniä Paloja

•Over 200 Finnish tourists are dead or missing in Asia after the devastating tsunami hit there on the morning of December 26. Over 1500 Swedes are dead or missing and another 1000 from the other Scandinavian countries. Thousands of the survivors have returned to their homelands with stories of the horror and chaos as the tsunami slammed into idyllic beach resorts without warning.

•A squad of firefighters accidentally set their own sauna ablaze on Wednesday but could not extinguish the fire despite their training. The sauna, at Lappi, 138 miles west of Helsinki, was destroyed despite the volunteer firefighters' efforts, Finnish news agency STT said.

•Finnish researchers are discovering that pine trees could bear arthritis pain remedies. In the future, people could eat supplements made from bark to ease aches. While similar compounds have been found in a variety of plants, Kaveli Pihlaja, a professor of chemistry at the University of Turku in Finland, believes his team is the first to find them in a pine widely used as a Christmas tree. Pihlaja's study will be printed in the Dec. 29 issue of the *Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry*.

•What does it mean when Finns test number one worldwide in both math and reading comprehension but they score last in the amount of homework they are given, and they like their teachers the least? According to an article in a Belgium newspaper, Finland again came out on top of a worldwide education study of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. The survey also highlighted the connection between math skills and gender and found that men were better at lengthy math tests than women, who in turn were better in problem solving. Finnish students had the highest percentage of proficiency in mathematics, the focus of this year's study. In the organization's last survey in 2000, Finland came out on top for reading assessment. South Korea, Canada, the Netherlands and Japan followed in the math rankings this year, with the United States at 24.

## More Calendar Items

**Feb. 18–21** Finnish Family Fun Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji. Adults \$200, children \$75. Come enjoy lessons on Finnish culture, language, music, dance, crafts, cooking, and sports taught by experienced instructors. Try cross-country skiing, snowshoeing (hopefully we have snow by then!) and other outdoor activities, or relax inside the beautiful Jyringin talo lodge with old and new friends; read books in the large library; play Finnish monopoly; eat Finnish food; or take a sauna and roll in the snow. The Watts family will be there to provide music, games and babysitting. See [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) or call 1-800-450-2214.

**Apr. 14–16** Minnesota Orchestra, under the direction of Osmo Vänskä performs Sibelius's *Nightride and Sunrise*. Osmo will hold a question and answer session after the performance. Call 612-371-5656 or 1-800-292-4141 or see [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org).

**May 8–14** Salolampi Finnish Language Village Spring Adult Week. See [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org) or call 1-800-450-2214.

**June 13–18** Finnish Family Week will be held at Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Register early for this popular week. This week is designed to introduce villagers ages 4–10 and their parents and/or grandparents to the village. Older brothers and sisters are also welcome. Families participate in all Salolampi summer activities, learning Finnish language and culture through language groups, stories, games, crafts, meals and hikes. Some activities are offered just for children, some just for adults, and some for everyone. Call 1-800-450-2214 for details and registration forms, or see [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org).

**Aug. 10–14** Finn Grand Fest 2005 in Marquette, Michigan. Joint Canadian-US Finnish festival. Aug. 10 will be the opening ceremonies and a parade. Aug. 11 will be *tori* (marketplace), programs, concerts, sporting events, and a gala concert featuring the world premiere of the Concerto for Orchestra and Double Bass by Finnish composer Jukka Linkola. Aug. 12 will be more programs, sports, concerts, and of course, a dance. Aug. 13 there will be the world's largest sauna, along with the usual, and a banquet and dance in the evening. Aug. 14 will be morning worship services in Finnish and English, and the closing ceremonies. For more info: [www.finngrandfest2005.com](http://www.finngrandfest2005.com).



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. 14, Fri.** Finn Hall band will be playing from 6:30–8:30 pm at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin, Minneapolis. For details call 612-379-3018. Great food, dance space, no cover charge. For information on the band see [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com).

**Jan. 15, Sat.** Finn Hall will be performing at the Sons of Norway dinner and installation ceremony at 7 p.m. Contact Anita Delegard, 952-941-5056, for information.

**Jan. 21, Fri.** January FACA program at the International Institute in St. Paul, 1694 Como Ave. at 7:30 p.m. Come see Pauliina Raento give a presentation on the history of Finnish stamps in the twentieth century and what they tell about Finland. (See p. 1)

**Jan. 21–23, Fri. –Sat.** Heikinpäivä MidWinter Festival in Hancock, Michigan. A series of events will celebrate the halfway point of winter at various Hancock locations. Activities include a parade, smorgasbord dinner & dance, concerts, *tori* (market), cultural demonstrations, the “Polar Bear Plunge” and more. For information call (906) 487-7302. Finn Hall will play for dancing on

*Heikinpäivä cont.*

Friday evening at the South Range Community Center and also play at various times in the Finnish American Cultural Center and Archives at Finlandia University on Saturday afternoon. For additional information see: <http://pasty.com/heikki/dancehtml>.

**Jan. 25, Tues.** Osmo Vänskä's other ensemble, the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, makes a special appearance at Orchestra Hall. Vänskä has served as music director of this orchestra since 1988, and during his tenure has transformed the regional ensemble into one of Finland's flagship orchestras. Tickets are \$20 to \$69. They will perform Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 and No.3. The concert begins at 7:30. For more details or for tickets, see the website at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org), or call 612-371-5656 or 1-800-292-4141.

**Jan. 29, Sat.** Finn Hall band will play part of the evening some time after 6:30 p.m. at the Nordic Ball, Sokol Hall, St. Paul. Contact; Ruth Nielsen at 763-561-4494 or email: [rnfiddle@aol.com](mailto:rnfiddle@aol.com).

*Calendar, continued on pg. 7*