



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC. January/tammikuu 2006

Rebirth of the Lutheran Church in Karelia, Russia *Presentation by Pastor Melvin Johnson*

The January 2006 program will tell the exciting story of a church body that survived years of intense persecution during the years of Joseph Stalin. Pastor Melvin Johnson was involved with two mission trips to Karelia for first-hand experience of life in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ingria.

His presentation will include personal observations and pictures of the reborn church, including anecdotes of the Karelians who returned from Siberia. It is a remarkable story of women who took their hymnals, Bibles, and catechisms to create an underground church. Most of the men were killed or forced into labor camps in Siberia.

Pastor Johnson originates from northeastern Minnesota near Tower. He attended Suomi College and the University of Minnesota Duluth for his BA degree and Northwestern Theological Seminary in Minneapolis for his Master of Divinity degree. He has held pastoral positions in Aurora, Virginia, and Duluth, Minnesota. He has also been the associate director for major gifts with the Lutheran Church in America, located in Denver, Colorado, and then a director of the ELCA Foundation in Chicago, Illinois.

He is now retired and is serving as an associate director on a part-time basis.

Come enjoy this presentation and refreshments and socialization afterwards.

JANUARY FACCA PROGRAM

**Rebirth of the Lutheran Church in
Karelia, Russia**
Friday, January 20
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

In December, three events in the Twin Cities celebrated our Finnish culture and heritage. First was the Independence Day reception hosted by the Finlandia Foundation on December 4th. This was a small but entertaining event featuring the talent of two music students at the Sibelius Academy – *Duo Sepia* – Victoria Lindqvist, vocals, and Lauri Schreck, guitar. They performed a number of Finnish, Swedish, and American songs, most of them in a folk-jazz style. The two were sponsored by The Government of Finland and David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professorship in Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota. They also gave a lecture/performance the following Tuesday and they were at the *Sisu* café and coffeehouse during the week. They make a great duo and it was fun to hear them singing some Joni Mitchell tunes.

I missed the *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* on the 10th but heard it was another wonderful service. Hopefully many of you were able to be there – I always enjoy going and singing all the Finnish Christmas carols, many of which are becoming more familiar to me now.

On the 11th, FACA had their *Pikkujoulu* Banquet at the Roseville Skating Center against a background of a bandy game and the lighted trees around the Skating Oval. Attendance was down again this year, and we board members hope it is just another sign of how busy the season is for everyone. The social hour and *tori* (marketplace) were a good way to get into the Christmas spirit. Thanks go to Floyd Niskanen for reading the Christmas story in Finnish and Lu Zibell for leading the table prayers. Soile Anderson did a wonderful job again with the catering, and we all got to enjoy our traditional favorites (the beet salad is mine). We were very entertained by the music of Finn Hall. It was fun to hear some of their new music along with some of their old favorites. I immediately recognized a Benny Andersson tune that I have always liked – *Födelsedagsvals till Mona*. Finn Hall also provided the music for our carol singing. *Kiitos!* And of course we had a visit from *Joulupukki* who had treats for the kids and lots of photo-ops for the parents. This year's Sauna Bucket award winner is Theresa Lund. She certainly deserves to be recognized for her many talents and dedication to making many of our FACA events a little more special. Theresa has been a board member up to recently, but she continues to help us in planning *Pikkujoulu* and Festival of Nations exhibits; and I sure do appreciate her help. Her attitude is always one of "we can do that..." I also would like to take this opportunity to thank her husband Clyde and all the members of her family that support her and donate their time and talents to many of the projects she gets involved in for FACA. (Theresa, maybe you could let them take the bucket home for a week like the Stanley Cup team's players do.) The evening ended with the traditional singing of *Silent Night*. Thanks to all who helped with the serving, setup, and cleanup; and thanks to all who attended.

I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and hope to see you at the next program!



Board Notes

By Luella Zibell



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

At the November Board meeting, plans for the Pikkujoulu party were finalized and the sauna bucket winner was chosen. In addition to the regular reports, plans were made for the January FACA program and the February Laskiainen party.

There was no December FACA Board meeting. The next meeting will be held January 17. Contact any member of the board for details.

Visitors welcome!

Finnish National Gallery Gets Donation of Schjerfbeck Work

According to an article by Anu Uimonen in the Helsingin Sanomat, The Ateneum Art Museum of the Finnish National Gallery has been given an unusually extensive private art collection, containing 35 works of the Finnish artist Helene Schjerfbeck. The donation increases the number of Schjerfbeck works in the collections of the Ateneum by more than one third, for a total of 89. The paintings are from the collection of two Helsinki doctors, Yrjö and Nanny Kaunisto, who amassed an art collection comprising 78 works during their life together. After the death of Yrjö Kaunisto (1912-2004), his wife Nanny Kaunisto (b. 1911) presented the collection to the National Gallery as a donation. The Schjerfbeck paintings are valued at about 12 million euros.

Children of the Information Society Presented by Juha Suoranta

by Floyd Niskanen

Juha Suoranta, Visiting Professor at the U of M presented an interesting and informative program about the children in the information society in Finland. He commented on Finland's students being at the top of several categories in a recent educational survey of 41 countries. This has brought many research groups to Finland to try determine why the Finnish education system is so good.

He continued with a discussion of his research project, which started in 2001 and continued to 2004. He said that at first there was not much interest in studying children. But there was increasing interest because it seemed that the technology medium was shaping the historical, social and cultural context of its use and children are involved in its use.

The research project surveyed 8-10 year olds and then was followed up with theme interviews of the children and their families. When the research was tested in the classrooms, they proved accurate. And they found that the children actually wanted to contribute and be involved with the research.

The children's media diet is diversified with computers, gaming, chatting, videos, Ipods, cell phones, etc. They use the different media to bring new things into their lives. Some children are more involved than others, but they found that the media diet didn't diminish their other activities such as music, sports, etc. There are some passive children and they may be a problem.

These information and communications technologies (ICT) are entertainment, but they can educate and bring new things into their lives. Children learn their media literacy informally but also in schools. Students and teachers can learn from each other. There may be some moral implications and also danger in losing social capital with the "home alone" effect. Parents and children need to negotiate and have rules for the use of the media diet and need to make good judgments.

ICT can be a dilemma that can't be easily solved, so we have to learn to live with them. They give new ways to learn and to understand the world. They enable social networks and the ability to communicate cheaply over long distances, but they may lead to a loss of social capital.

The program concluded with questions and answers, followed by refreshments.

Book Review

By Valorie Arrowsmith (*Nordic Promoter*)

I'd like to recommend a book that should give hope and inspiration to ethnic festival and event organizers: *Shopping for Identity, the Marketing of Ethnicity* by Marilyn Halter (ISBN: 0-8052-4156-6)

In this book, we learn that Americans are showing a greater interest in ethnic artifacts, cuisine, music, literature and language; and there is a growth in ethnic celebrations. Also, businesses are paying attention to the ethnic market for potential sales. This market is identified as new immigrants, as well as 3rd and 4th generation Americans who are seeking to reconnect with their heritage. Corporations and businesses are seeing the value of sponsoring ethnic festivals, because they can support educational initiatives and also have a business presence there.

Here are a couple of quotes from the book:

"New studies of the children, grandchildren, and the great-grandchildren of immigrants question the extent to which ethnicity is a factor in their identity formation after three or four generations in this country. To the surprise of many, the results have shattered the assumption that over time and with greater structural integration, ethnicity would simply disappear. Ethnic identification persists and the research demonstrates that higher socioeconomic status and increased educational levels have strengthened rather than weakened it."

"The so-called roots phenomenon accounts for such developments as the growth of ethnic celebrations, a zeal for genealogy, increased travel to ancestral homelands, and greater interest in ethnic artifacts, cuisine, music, literature, and, of course, language."

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.

Christmas and New Year in Finland Again Attract Russian Tourists

After a few quiet seasons, the sales of Christmas and New Year trips to Finland have again reached record levels in Russia. After having sold out nearly all package tours to Finland, tour operators report that there is a shortage of large rental cottages. Based on the number of visas granted, about 50,000 Russian tourists will spend the Christmas season in Finland, up from 35,000 last year. The sales of Christmas and New Year tours started exceptionally early in Russia this autumn. The first trips were on sale in August, and by October business was booming. Perhaps the biggest reason for the Russian holiday rush is that the entire first week of January 2006 is a public holiday in Russia. As it happens, the practice was introduced last New Year, but notification came too late for tourists or travel agencies to take full advantage of it. The majority of Russians come to Finland in the winter. Only one-third of all overnights occur in the summer.

The Finnish Tourist Board hopes that travel entrepreneurs would hold prices at moderate levels and take good care of Russian tourists. Like everywhere, even in Russia, the best advertisement is still a friend's recommendation; and the Finns may have early been guilty of thinking that the Russian tourists, who are often well-heeled, would pay any price.

Santa Seekers Spell Traffic Trouble

The rush to visit Santa's workshop in Rovaniemi, Finland at Christmas means about 400,000 foreign visitors a year, and 90 percent of them are Britons flying over southern Norway.

This means that in December up to 25 planes an hour will be in Norwegian air space en route to visit Santa Claus. Santa-related air traffic is so great that it forces restrictions on more conventional flights over Norway.

In Memory of John T. Typpo

John Tauno Typpo, age 76, of Dellwood, MN, died Monday, November 21, 2005. He was born December 27, 1928 in Belden, North Dakota to Sanfrid and Manda Typpo. In 1931, the family moved to Floodwood, where they made their home for many years.

He was in the Army from 1950-1953, serving in the Korean War as a tank commander and later as an MP. John married Marion Henrikson on April 2, 1955 in Cloquet. John received his bachelor's degree from UMD and his PhD from the University of Minnesota. He was a professor of Human Nutrition at the University of Missouri from 1967 until his retirement in 1992. He was a highly successful researcher and served as chairman of his department for many years.

After his retirement, John became involved with Salolampi Finnish Language Village and served on the Board of Directors. Evelyn Eskeli, president of the Salolampi Foundation said, "We have lost a special, wonderful, and passionate supporter of Salolampi! We will miss his wise advice and counsel."

His favorite activities were fishing, spending time at the family cabin in Canada, and all things Finnish. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marion, on August 7, 1998; three brothers, Arthur, Toivo, and Taito; and four sisters, Tina Yrios, Louise McDonald, Diana Kumpala and infant sister, Toini Manda Typpo. John is survived by his two children, Lisa (Jim) Parks of Eagan, MN and Eric (Carmen Switzer) Typpo of Stockton, CA; two grandchildren, Austin and Andrew Typpo; a brother, David (Marcella) Typpo of Superior, WI and many other friends and relatives.

The funeral was held at the Big Lake Apostolic Lutheran Church in Cloquet. To sign the guestbook and leave an online tribute, see northlandfuneralhome.com. Memorials may be made to The Salolampi Foundation, PO Box 14480, University Station, MN 55414.

In Memory of Milda M. Hokkanen

Milda Hokkanen, age 92, of Minneapolis, passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends on November 15, 2005. Milda was the proud owner of Milda's Café in North Minneapolis. She is preceded in death by her parents, Hjalmar & Julia Rappana; husband, Joel Ewald "Pete"; brother, LeRoy Rappana; infant son, Lerris; grandchildren, Gary, Jennifer and Alicia. She is survived by her children, Sandra (Bob) Bolduc, Tom, Jerry and Jane (Tom) Eisenschenk; grandchildren, Cheryl, Wayne, Mark, Patrick, Peter, Paula, Nick, Robin, Jodelle, Joe, Matthew, Stefanie; 24 great-grandchildren, 6 great-great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends. Milda was an active member of Redeemer Lutheran Church. Memorials preferred to the church.



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 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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Scenes from Pikkujoulu



Sauna Bucket Winner: Theresa Lund



Mary Oberg-Hanf and Santa



Soile Anderson catered the feast.



The Oppti-tunti members' table

Pieniä Paloja

- *Kiitoksia* to those who provided refreshments at our November FACA program: **Betsey Norgard, Vergene Ollila-Routhe, Merryalice and Bob Jones and Barb Owens.**
- There were 259,700 **unemployed** registered in the employment offices in Finland in November, down 16,000 compared with the previous year. The unemployment rate is 8.0%.
- Finns tend to have the highest **blood pressure** in the world, with Finnish men having the highest blood pressure of all European men. Finnish men tend to be overweight, they exercise seldom, and their diet is unhealthy. Though the consumption of alcohol is below the European average, Finns drink to get drunk. This leads to higher blood pressure. Apart from alcohol, salt is a major factor. The average Finn uses ten grams of salt a day, twice the recommended amount. Genes may also play a role. Cardiovascular diseases kill almost every other Finn.
- From the beginning of 2006, Finnish taxpayers will not need to fill in **tax forms** themselves. They will receive a completed tax form in April, and will be able to correct any mistakes in it.

More Calendar items:

May 4-7 Festival of Nations at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Enjoy hundreds of different cultures. Volunteer to help at the Finnish café or exhibit. See future newsletters for details.

May 14-20 Finnish Spring Adult Week at Salolampi Finnish Language Village. \$455 per person, \$355 for commuters. Experience Finland in Northern Minnesota this spring. Call 800-450-2214 or see www.salolampi.org.

Welcome New Members!
Ira Ebeling of Bloomington,
Carol Nordeen of Minnetonka,
Jeffrey Saarela of Fridley
Tervetuloa!

Beef and Potato Soup-Lihakeitto

from *Best of Finnish Cooking*, Taimi Previdi

- 2 pounds beef chuck with bones
- 8 cups water
- 1 whole peeled medium onion
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon whole allspice
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 rib celery with leaves
- 1 leek, split, washed, green top removed
- a small piece of peeled rutabaga or a small turnip
- 2 teaspoons dried marjoram leaves
- 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
- 8 medium potatoes, peeled and cut into small chunks
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Rinse the meat and place in a soup pot with water. Bring to boil, skimming the surface to remove the froth as it rises. After most of the froth has disappeared, add the salt, allspice, onion and bay leaf, cover and let simmer for 2 hours. Add the sliced leek, celery, rutabaga and marjoram and simmer ½ hour. Remove the meat and set aside to cool, add the carrots and potatoes and simmer another 30-45 minutes, or until the vegetables are tender. Remove the meat from the bones, cut into bite-sized pieces and add to the soup. Salt to taste, add the chopped parsley and serve in large bowls, preferably with homemade bread. In Finland it is traditionally served with dark sourdough rye. Serves 6 to 8.

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 |
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| <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

FACA CALENDAR

Jan. 12–14 Osmo Vänskä, from Lahti, Finland, leads the Minnesota Orchestra in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Symphony No. 9, *Choral (Ode to Joy)*. Helena Juntunen, soprano; Katrina Karneus, mezzo; Gordon Gietz, tenor; Neal Davies, bass; and the Minnesota Chorale. Call 612-371-5642 for tickets or see minnesotaorchestra.org.

Jan. 20, Friday Pastor Melvin Johnson speaks on the rebirth of the Lutheran Church in Karelia, Russia at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

Jan. 21–22 Finn Hall will be performing at the Heikinpäivä celebration in Hancock, Michigan for the Friday night dance at South Range, Michigan and then also at the tori at Finlandia Hall in Hancock on Saturday. See www.finnhall.com

Jan. 25, Wed. February FACA newsletter deadline. Email articles and calendar items to Tiina Watts at tiiwatts@usfamily.net. Pictures (in JPEG format) go directly to Beth Jarvis. We also need landscape pictures from Finland for our front cover. (See p. 2 for contact information.)

Jan. 28, Sat. *Karhun Juhla* (Bear Party), hosted by Kisarit Dancers, will be held from 6:30 to 11:00 p.m. at Czech Sokol Hall, 383 Michigan Ave., St. Paul (where West 7th, Western and Michigan Ave. meet). Break out of hibernation; it's time to dance! A Finnish Bear Picnic—a spread of nuts, berries, fish, etc.—will be out for your tasting pleasure from 8 to 10 p.m. A cash bar will also be available, with soft drinks and water only. Admission is \$20, \$15 advance, cash or check payable to Kisarit. Tickets and information available from Dan Salin at 763-544-1441, taneli@rayway.com.

Feb. 16–17 Minnesota Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä, performs Sibelius' *Lemminkäinen Legends*, as well as Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 and Kernis' *Sarabanda in Memoriam*. Call 612-371-5642 for tickets or see minnesotaorchestra.org.

Feb. 17–20 Family Fun Weekend at the Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Bring the whole family for President's Day weekend for Finnish food, crafts, music, dancing, lectures, games, cross-country skiing, and language classes. Lodging in warm cabins. \$200 per adult, \$75 per child. Call 800-450-2214 or see www.salolampi.org.

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