



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

January/Tammikuu 2011

The language, music and culture of *Salolampi*

The January 21, 2011 program features the language, music and culture of Finland, *Salolampi* style. Tiina Watts, along with members of the *Salolampi* board, will show photos and lead us in language lessons, sing-alongs, photos, and a few games of *mölky*.

In addition, due to the cancellation of *Pikkujoulu*, we will observe a “*pikku*” *Pikkujoulu*, including the Sauna Bucket award to an outstanding volunteer and special foods for *kabvi aika*.



Thousands of people, young and old, have learned about Finnish language, music and culture at the *Salolampi* Finnish Language Village over the past 30 years and at the recently added Soiva Music Camp. The no-pressure, casual approach makes learning fun and easy. Adult programs in the spring and fall are similar, with instruction at all levels and many guest speakers.

Before major construction began at the Village, a sauna from Finland was erected on the lake shore, in true Finnish tradition. The dark red main lodge, *Jyringin Talo*, takes its style from the historic railroad station at Jyväskylä, Finland. Three of the five cabins were ordered as logs from Finland, constructed on arrival by Concordia's work force, together with *Salolampi* Foundation volunteers. A Sami *kota* stands on the path through the woods and there is a new dance pavilion near the soccer field.

January Program

Salolampi
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

Once the major construction plan was completed, the Foundation shifted its focus to begin a *Sampo* endowment fund, to assure *Salolampi* Village scholarships in perpetuity. A *Salolampi* phonathon along with gifts from individuals and organizations such as FACA, provide scholarships funding totaling \$20,000–\$30,000 each year.

Salolampi management is under the auspices of the Concordia College Language Village program, directed by Christine Shulze and her staff. An International Advisory Committee, which includes Finnish education and government leaders, assists with staffing from Finland.

Salolampi information from Armi Koskinen Nelson (www.salolampi.org)

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President's Message

By Kara Middleton

Dear FACA friends,

I am very sorry that we were unable to have our *Pikkujoulu* dinner this year. It was a difficult decision for the board to make on the morning of December 11th. But with some roads impassable, the added challenge of on-street parking at Christ Church, and some guests planning to come from nearly 100 miles away, we felt that it would be too difficult and dangerous.



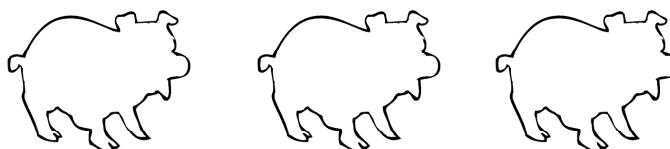
As you may have heard, we decided not to reschedule *Pikkujoulu* this year. Instead we will have a very small "*pikku-Pikkujoulu*" after the January program. (See page 3.) I hope you can join us!

This past Christmas was a season of cookie baking for me, and it got me thinking about the history that even little things like cookies hold. When I was growing up, my mom often made prune tarts at Christmastime. I remember when I was too little to roll out the dough, but could "help" in the assembly phase of the process. I liked to drop the spoonful of prunes onto the middle of the star, and press the points together. I often had too big of a glob of prunes, and got mixed up as to which points of the star to fold in. This resulted in a lot of misshapen stars, many with exploded middle sections. But, I loved them anyway.

This year I decided to have a Christmas cookie baking extravaganza with my niece and nephews. Their grandmother, Verna Maki, is a master prune tart maker, so I couldn't compete there! Instead I decided we could make sugar cookies. And in my kitchen drawer I found a pig-shaped cutter that my mom had. I don't remember ever using it, but I thought it was a good time to start. So we made Christmas trees, stars, reindeer and pigs. My nephew asked, "Aunt Kara, why do they have pig cookies in Finland? How do they decorate them?" I said I didn't know. But we invented our own pig themes. We had Rudolph the Red-Nosed Pigs, State Fair blue ribbon pigs, the Evil Dr. Pork Chop (a character in the movie, *Toy Story 3*), some Arkansas razorback hogs, and a "Super Pig" with a cape and an "S" on his chest. Our pigs were like artifacts of our family life. It was a great day—a giant flurry of powdered sugar, colored frosting and silliness.

Later I learned from some Finnish friends the significance of the pig. Most of you probably know that it refers to the Christmas ham much the way a turkey refers to the Thanksgiving meal for Americans. But I kind of like the fact that we didn't know that day. We took something from our past and added to it from our present. We took a Finnish tradition and created a Finnish-American tradition.

I hope that many of you enjoyed your own Christmas cookie traditions this year. I would love to hear what yours are.



Board Notes

By Jeanne Swope



L-R Kara Middleton, Glen Bay, Jane Olson, Jeanne Swope, Edith Boos, Ray Piirainen

President Kara Middleton called the meeting to order at 7:30 at the home of Jeanne Swope. Minutes of the October meeting and the Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved. Vice President Ray Piirainen updated us on the upcoming program, Jouko Sipila (publisher) and Peter Leppa (translator) from Ice Cold Crime.

Kara Middleton had compiled a list of *Pikkujoulu* tasks and tentatively assigned them to board members. We discussed the items, how to find volunteers, etc. Everything seemed to be in order. Saana has excellent ideas about room set-up and their part of the

"PIKKU-PIKKUJOULU" PLANNED FOR JANUARY PROGRAM

With the sad loss of our annual *Pikkujoulu* celebration in December, you may have spent the past month longing mournfully for a piece of herring or a heavenly slice of strawberry torte. Discouraged gourmets take heart! We will celebrate a belated FACA Christmas party, or "*pikku-Pikkujoulu*," at the January FACA program. After the *Salolampi* presentation, we will enjoy some sweet and savory treats from Soile Anderson, the presentation of the Sauna Bucket award, and general merry-making. In order to pay for these extra special refreshments, we will request a donation of five dollars. Please join us!

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

Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

program. *Joulupukki* is once again planning to attend. We will award the Sauna Bucket to an outstanding FACA volunteer. There will be several tables in the *tori*.

Jane Olson reported that refreshments are organized for the November meeting.

Our next meeting will be at the home of Ray Piirainen on Wednesday January 19, at 7:30 p.m.

Addition, Friday December 17: The following board members (everyone who was available) met concerning follow-up to the cancellation of *Pikkujoulu* due to bad weather: Kara Middleton, Edie Boos, Jane Olson, Jeanne Swope. We decided to refund all guests in full.

Edie will contact those whose checks she did not deposit and either return or destroy them. She will also write refund checks to all who need them who are at the January program. Those who do not make the January program will receive their checks by mail, unless they want earlier payment. We also decided to have a "*pikku-pikkujoulu*" at the January program. We'll keep the planned *Salolampi* presentation, then, after the program, award the Sauna Bucket and serve items furnished by Soile Anderson. We will also serve *glogg* at this event. We will suggest a \$5 donation from attendees to cover the higher cost of the food.

PIKKUJOULU TICKET REFUNDS AT JANUARY PROGRAM

In case you have not yet heard, the FACA board has decided not to reschedule this year's *Pikkujoulu* dinner. As a result, we are issuing full refunds to all who purchased tickets. Treasurer Edie Boos will be on hand at the January program to issue checks to those present. If you are unable to attend the January program, please contact Edie at (612) 522-7708 to have a check mailed to you. We regret the cancellation of this anticipated event and hope to make an extra-special *Pikkujoulu* in 2011.

Kiitos!

Condolences

We extend our condolences to George Valo on the passing of his wife, Viola Valo, who passed away on December 8, 2010. The funeral service was held Saturday, December 11, at St. Peter Lutheran Church, in Afton. We also extend our condolences to daughter Jane Olson and her husband Keith.

Christmas Eve

at the American Swedish Institute

At Christmas Eve (*Jouluaatto*), Finland is in the long winter night season known as *kaamos* when the only light is that reflected from the moon and snow.



Santa (*joulupukki*) and his reindeer live at the tundra in the far north, (*Korvatunturi*). His visit is anticipated by the children who sit at their own table where a tiny tree is decorated with a *pepparkakor* (*piparkakku*)

cookie heart for each child. The traditional Santa in the middle of the dining table is dressed in fur and reindeer skin, not bright red.

In anticipation for Santa's arrival, they form a circle and sing, *Tonttujen Jouluyö—Santa's Elves Christmas Night*. When he arrives, they sing to him, *Joulupukki—Santa*. They are usually accompanied by a fiddle or *kantele*.



The tree has been decorated the evening before the Christmas Eve festivities often with decorations made of straw and wood. The dinner is the time for the more special traditional meal, rather than on Christmas Day. Many entrees include fresh or smoked ham, casseroles of potatoes, carrots and rutabaga followed by a selection of baked pastries, Christmas tarts, cardamom bread, *pepparkakor* and chocolates—*Joulutortut*, *pulla*, *piparkakku*, *suklaa*.

Display designers: Kathleen Laurila and Marlene Banttari for Finnish Cultural Activities, Inc.
Dishes, glassware, flatware: FinnStyle, Minneapolis.
Accessories: Designers.

NOTE: A Nordic Christmas featuring decorated trees and tables settings representing each of the five Nordic countries is on display until Jan. 16, 2011.

The *Angry Birds* Addiction

By Mary Belanger

Angry Birds is a hit game created by Rovio, a small Finnish company. The game has become the pop-culture crazes of the year and on December 11, celebrated the first anniversary by organizing the first official *Angry Birds Day* worldwide! Since its release, 50 million copies have been downloaded, and it's the best-selling iPhone app of 2010.

I can attest to the addiction. I downloaded the game to my iPhone awhile back and am hooked! The plot? Evil pigs have stolen bird eggs. The pigs hide both themselves and the stolen eggs inside of reinforced fortresses, but, the birds are angry and want revenge. It is up to you to help the birds by catapulting them into the bunkers and blowing the evil pigs up.

Who would think up something silly like this? Well, it all began in 2003, when Helsinki University of Technology students *Niklas Hed*, *Jarno Väkeväinen*, and *Kim Dikert* participated in a mobile game development competition sponsored by Nokia and HP. Their first place victory compelled the trio to set up their own company, Relude, which in early 2005 received its first round of investments and the company became Rovio Mobile.

These days folks everywhere spend their free time, whether it is on the bus or train, snowy, sunny or rainy days playing *Angry Birds*, talking about *Angry Birds*, or creating fun stuff, around *Angry Birds*. There are now tee shirts, plush animals, Halloween costumes and screen savers available for the fanatic fan! For more information check out their website at: rovio.com, or check out the Lite version for free, before you spring for the 99¢ app. But—be forewarned, you'll become addicted, too!



Saana Ensemble Recording Project 2011

Dear Friends,

We have had a great year and the future looks bright! Our year of singing started in January at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. We cannot but be amazed by the magic of singing Finnish hymns in a Catholic church in America. This was our fourth time in Basilica and we were very pleased to be asked back there for the fifth time in November. March was a busy month for us. We were honored to sing at the church service and reception honoring Martti Ahtisaari, a former president of Finland and a Nobel Peace Prize winner, at Christ Church Lutheran as part of Nobel Peace Prize commemoration festivities, an Augsburg College tradition. In January and March we performed with Ameriikan Poijat brass band during its 20th anniversary season. In May, we gave a concert at St. Paul's-on-the Hill Episcopal Church featuring our frequent partner, the magnificent violinist Sara Pajunen, and in December we returned to New York Mills Cultural Center for the fourth time! We made many new friends participating in Sample Night Live in May. To our surprise (!), we were voted as the Audience Favorite that night and were invited to sing in SNL special event in December.

We want to extend a huge and humble thank you to all of you who enjoy our music and have shown interest in what we do. We wouldn't be singing without you. Our big news is that we are going to record a new CD in January of 2011! We are all immigrants and our mission is to promote the music we grew up listening to in Finland, as well as promote current and contemporary renditions of Finnish folk music. The feedback of our new material (most of it arranged by our own Elina Kala) has been very positive. For our recording project, we are partnering with some of the stellar musicians in the Twin Cities' music scene: Dan Chouinard, piano & accordion, Peter Ostroushko, mandolin, Marc Anderson, percussion, Joel Sayles, double bass, and Sara Pajunen, violin.

We are very excited about this upcoming project but because it will be more complicated, time-consuming and expensive than our previous a cappella recording, we are asking your support. Please consider donating any amount, even if it just a few dollars, towards this project. Great music starts from single notes and with your help we can reach our goal of \$3000! If you decide to donate \$100, you will receive the upcoming CD this spring; for \$400, we will come and perform a concert at your home, office or anywhere around the Twin Cities area. Consider giving your friends and family a

gift of a concert! Saana Ensemble was just recently accepted to Springboard for the Arts fiscal sponsorship program, so all donations will be tax-deductible. Donations can be made online at <http://givemmn.razoo.com/story/Saana-Ensemble-Recording-Project>, or you can send a check to Springboard for The Arts, 308 Prince St, St. Paul, MN 55101 and write "SAANA



ENSEMBLE" on the memo line. You can always hand your check to any of us Saana members (see previous directions), and we'll deliver it to Springboard. Thank you for being our friend and supporter. We hope to see you soon! www.saanaensemble.weebly.com

Happy New Year-*Hyvää uutta vuotta,*
Saana Ensemble —*Elina K, Elina R, Eeva, Sari and Ulla*

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"/> <i>Laskiainen</i> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
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Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708,
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708 or bring to the
next program.

FinnFest 2011 San Diego Style

By Erin Belanger



Hopefully you are busy planning your trip to sunny Southern California for FinnFest 2011, which will be held August 10–14. While the convention will be filled with interesting lectures and Finnish traditions, getting outside and playing tourist is essential.

Since moving to the coast I have been occupied playing tourist, and love it! It is easy to fall in love with San



Diego while watching the sunset over the ocean to seeing the sights from land, air and sea. There are so many wonderful activities from surfing and hiking, to the famous San Diego Zoo, all all found within the city limits.

San Diego is known for its nearly perfect weather, making it a

great place for sightseers and tourists to have a wonderful holiday vacation.

When arriving to San Diego, the best activity to acclimate yourself is to take a segway tour. Another Side Tours offers a variety of excursions with these intuitive machines, making it easy to see a lot very quickly. These tours are led by a helpful and educational guide, who will escort you around to the hot spots of the city, revealing great photo ops, and filling you in on the who, what, where, when, and how that makes San Diego America's 'Finest City.' For those of you who have never ridden a segway, Another Side Tours makes it easy, safe and stress free. The friendly staff will have you riding around in no time and then you're off on a rolling adventure doubling as a fantastic introduction in San Diego.

How do you decide which segway tour to sign up for? With several tours available, I would highly recommend the Gaslamp Tour which will take you into the famous Gaslamp Quarter, inside Petco Park, down the Embarcadero and up to Balboa Park. This tour is two and a half hours and covers almost ten miles. I always tell my guests that going on the Gaslamp tour you see so much of the city making it easy to know what to go back to and how to plan the rest of your trip. You will get excellent referrals from your guide from where to

dine while in San Diego, and what else is a must see in Southern California depending on your interests.

Another great segway tour is the Coronado Tour. On this tour, you take the segways on the ferry and across the harbor to Coronado Island. There, you have a nice easy ride seeing the gorgeous San Diego skyline, the Pacific Ocean, the famous Hotel del Coronado, and the beautiful and luxurious homes that fill the isle. This tour lasts about three hours.

If you are cramped for time, go for the Sunset Tour. This tour lasts an hour and highlights the Embarcadero and waterfront in downtown San Diego.

No matter which tour you decide on, you won't be let down. Remember to bring your camera and your sense of adventure!

If you are interested in taking a segway tour, I would love to be your guide. Email me at erin@anothersidetours.com to book a tour or for more information on any of the tours available at anothersidetours.com.

Make sure you tell them that Erin sent you!

Another Side Tours of San Diego is located at 300 G Street, San Diego, CA, 877-311-8687 (TOUR)



Congratulations to Osmo Vänskä, conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra. Vänskä was named 2010 Artist of the Year, by the Star Tribune.

Pieniä Paloja

- Cheers! Sales of high-end cognacs increased over the holiday season in Finland.
- Skis have been flying off the shelves all over snowy Finland, and manufacturers Karhu and Peltonen Ski are finding it tough to keep up with the demand. Both companies have hired additional help.
- Tourism entrepreneurs large and small in Lapland have had a rough time of it this year. The Icelandic ash cloud, the recession, strikes, and now blizzards have all hurt sales and reduced arrivals for the industry.
- The Finlandia Prize for the best Finnish work of fiction, has gone to 35-year-old author Mikko Rimminen with his novel *Nenäpäivä* (“Nose Day”).
- Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale, the first feature film by Finnish director Jalmari Helander and produced by Petri Jokiranta, has been getting mostly positive reviews around the world. The Finnish Santa Claus horror-comedy is being shown in limited release in the United States.
- As companies tighten their belts, there has been a sharp decline in corporate support for arts and culture by Finnish companies. In 1999, the arts got an estimated EUR 46 million, but in 2008 the sum was reduced to under EUR 17 million.
- The director of the Nationality Unit of the Finnish Immigration Service, Tiina Suominen, discussed the possibility of a test immigrants applying for Finnish citizenship might be expected to pass. Suominen says that the most appropriate questions would involve issues related to the lives of the applicants themselves—health care, education, work, and social benefits.
- Finnair, Finland’s national carrier, has a new logo. A new logo has been developed on the basis of the existing one. “The blue and white colouring has been preserved, but the modern look is lighter than before, with white and silver complementing the distinguished dark blue of the logo” states Finnair.
- Conductor and composer Esa-Pekka Salonen recently signed a three-year extension to his contract as Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor to the Philharmonia Orchestra in London. Salonen joined the Philharmonia Orchestra at the beginning of the 2008–2009 after having spent seventeen years as Music Director of the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

More Calendar items

Mar 26 Sourcing & Corrections. How to source information and correct errors. 9:30 a.m., Coordinated by Joan Dwyer and Cathie Reasoner, Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota. Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15.

April 23 Duane Wiita—topic to be determined. 9:30a.m., Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15.

May 28 Elections and open discussion of summer plans. 9:30 a.m., Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15.

Aug 10-14 FinnFest 2011 San Diego “Catch the Finnish Wave.” 2011 marks the 28th FinnFest USA, attracting again thousands of participants from all over the world! Hosting this special event, for the first time ever, FinnFest USA will be held in the southernmost California, in San Diego — the 8th largest city in the United States of America. For more information: www.finnfest2011.com You will also find them on Facebook!



Hyvää Uutta Vuotta

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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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

Jan 16 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Tali-Ihantala* 1944 http://www.ses.fi/en/filmasp?id=756_Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: Movie Group Page or (651) 428-3155

Jan 21 FACA Monthly Program, 7:30 p.m. (*See pg. 1*)

Jan. 22 Family Stories. Coordinated by Anne Tormanen. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota 9:30a.m. Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15.

Jan 28 FACA *Utiset* copy due: facaeditor@gmail.com

Feb 13 Traditional *Laskiainen* celebration held at the Como Park Ski Chalet from 2:00 - 5:00. In addition to the outdoor fun - sledding, cross country and downhill skiing, and some *lumibandy* (snow hockey) - there will be pea soup and *laskiaispulla* in the chalet. Como Park Ski Center, 1431 N. Lexington Pkwy, Saint Paul. (651) 488-9673 Map: <http://tinyurl.com/2dbfqq>. More: suomikoulu@minnesotafinnish.org

Feb 19 FACA Monthly Program, 7:30 p.m.

Feb 20 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Katastrofin ainekset* http://www.millenniumfilm.fi/tbr_recipes.html. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis.

Feb 23–25 *A Carnegie Hall Preview: Beethoven and Sibelius* Every season, Carnegie Hall asks the Minnesota Orchestra to perform for New Yorkers—and here's your chance to experience the program Manhattan is

waiting for. Osmo Vänskä is known the world over for his Sibelius interpretations, music that is the Orchestra's strong suit as well. When the astonishing violinist Lisa Batiashvili joins in to perform Beethoven's only violin concerto, it's a case of success upon success—a high point of the season! Contact the Minnesota Orchestra for times and prices. www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Feb 26 FACA *Utiset* copy due: facaeditor@gmail.com

Feb. 26 Important Events in Finnish History. How events in Finland impacted emigration from Finland. Coordinated by Richard Tormanen. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota 9:30a.m., Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15.

Feb 27 Nordic Contemplative Evening Prayer. Markings. Guests: Saana Ensemble. Evening Prayer liturgy has been the usual prayer of the early Christian-church. 6:51 p.m., 1935 St. Clair Avenue., St. Paul (651) 699-6886, pilgrim@pilgrimgstpaul.org

Mar 1 Application deadline for FACA scholarships to *Salolampi*; \$100 and \$200 available for relatives of a FACA member. Contact Kathleen Jackson at (651) 739-3102 for information and application.

March 20 Finnish Culture Through Movies group 6:00 p.m., *Toinen jalka haudasta* <http://www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=925> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis.

More calendar items on pg. 7