

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

June/Kesäkuu 2008

Summer Edition

FINNISH CULTURE

Near Kaustinen, Finland
Photo: LynnAnne Vesper

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Program Recap

By Al Norgard



May's program was presented by our treasurer, Andreas Ostenso, who told us about the traditional medical practices in Finland and explained how Finnish character traits helped form our ancestor's views of health and illness. These views were formed in the pre-scientific medicine era in Finland and have to be understood as a logical response to illness as they understood it.

Healers of the day thought illness was caused by many things such as: an imbalance of humors, nutritional deficits, curses, or living an "incorrect" life. Most of the healing methods were considered state of the art at the time and tried to treat the source of the illness, not the symptoms. Such things as chanting and reversing of spells were special skills employed to cast out demons and correct imbalances in the body in an attempt to eliminate the source. Sometimes various medicinal herbs were used to help the process, but were not usually seen as the total cure. Though these methods may seem silly or examples of quackery when compared to today's methods, they can be seen as the best alternative when compared to doing nothing.

Problems such as broken bones, burns, cuts, etc. were not viewed as illnesses, as their source was readily known; so healers were not called upon to treat them. Instead, bone setters, midwives, and common folk remedies were employed to treat this class of disease.

Andreas also explained how the scientific method took over when developments in science started to provide answers to the question of where disease originates, using evidence and facts instead of superstition. Many times, we have also learned that some folk remedies were actually not all that far off the mark in treating disease. Things such as foxglove (*digitalis*), cranberry juice, and herbs have been shown to be effective in treating illness. Many modern drugs are derived from natural sources, too.

We would like to thank Andreas for this interesting and entertaining program to finish our season, and we hope to see you all again in September.

Your eyes aren't deceiving you...to improve legibility; we've increased the type size one point. Your graphics editor's arms are getting too short.

Finnish Café 2008

By Junelle Bernard

The Festival of Nations 2008 was a big success for all involved. Attendance was up; and the crowds appeared to enjoy the entertainment, exhibits, bazaar offerings, and, of course, all the wonderful ethnic foods. Our strawberry shortcake was a big draw, as were the lemon cookies, herring, *piirakka*, and spiced fruit punch. Many people stopped by, curious to taste reindeer sausage and find out how egg coffee is made.

Setting up and taking down our booth and preparing and selling all our products was a big job and required many helpers.

I want to thank the following people for working one or more shifts during the festival: Stella and Harvey Arola, Marlene and Ernie Banttari, Stu and Laura Bernard, Edie Boos, Kathy Chambless, Linda Davis, Evelyn Eskeli, Carrie Johnson, Merryalice and Bob Jones, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Anna and Bernice Kuure, Ramona Larson; Cassie, Clyde, and Richard Lund; Gary Nies, Jane Olson, Carol and Ray Pesola, Pam and Urho Rahkola, Aune and Bette Ruskanen, Ruthann Swanson, Jeanette and Rick Weidner, Betty Wheelecor, Anita and Ron Wiemer, and Merja Wilenius.

Our efforts yielded a profit of about \$2,000 to be used for Salolampi scholarships; but the best thing about the Festival is coming together as a community to learn about each other and celebrate our cultural differences. We hope you were all able to attend!

Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



L-R: Barbara Nikula Owens, Andreas Ostenso, Stella Arola, Alan Norgard, Kaarina Kotkavuori

The Board was greeted by President Al Norgard on May 13 at the home of Kaarina Kotkavuori. The Secretary's minutes of the April Board meeting and the Treasurer's report were read and approved.

President Al Norgard reported that the FACA bylaws need some revisions and that changes will be considered during the summer break and be presented to the membership at our first program in the fall.

Our annual meeting was held on May 16th at the International Institute. Elections for two new board members were held. Jane Valo Olson and Jeanne Luoma Swope were elected to the board by the members present. The program was presented by Andreas Ostenso.

The program chair, the special events chair, and the hospitality chair presented their reports.

Stella Arola reported that she had presented the Finnish flag from Suomi Seura to the Finnish Genealogical Group at their April 26th meeting.

Various possibilities for programs for our fall season were discussed.

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

Crowd Surfing to Cello Music, What?!?

By Erin Belanger

At an intimate club in downtown Minneapolis, the night was about to release a new metal element into the city. It was late Saturday night and I was in good company. We had prime seating and drinks brought on queue. As we awaited the band to take the stage, we listened to the DJ play a random mix of heavy metal favorites. There was plenty of “people watching” to be done with an eclectic crowd waiting in line. Fathers, daughters, students, artists, heavy metal fans, and classical musicians anticipated the show. The one common denominator of the group was the enchanting music of Apocalyptica.

As soon as the lights went down, the first string was plucked and the energy on and off the stage erupted. When the blue and green lights hit the black stage there were four cello players sitting on large metal chairs that resembled skulls; however, most of the band stood and jumped around the stage while they played. The music was loud and so was the crowd. The magnificent cellists were losing the hair off their bows faster than I was able to blink. There was screaming, clapping, crowd surfing, head banging, and a sparking force behind every note. There was not a quiet moment during the show, nor did the band give anything less than a 100% performance.

Just as eclectic as the crowd they brought in, the musicians themselves appeared to have quite different personalities. There was one cellist who preferred to play with his shirt off while moving his long black hair in harsh circles. Another performer, wearing an army inspired sweater, smiled as he bowed the classical instrument. One musician didn't hold still and dragged his cello all over the stage. The fourth member remained seated throughout the performance, dressed all in black wearing sunglasses. Whether or not the players had similar personalities, it was obvious that night that they were all in the moment and eager to share their love for music.



Apocalyptica is one of a kind; sort of a heavy metal band with classical training. They started by playing Metallica covers and have since expanded to writing original fusion classical-metal songs. This band is touring all over the world with their new album *Worlds Collide*. They have sold millions of albums and are in high demand, recently playing with their number one inspiration heavy metal band, Metallica.

These musicians put on a fantastic show and prove that Finns really know how to rock. Their energy is incredible and contagious with any crowd. I still have difficulty describing their sound other than truly explosive and inspiring. Is there such a thing as metal cello or cello metal? How about neo-classical metal, thrash metal, or symphonic metal? I don't know, just listen and you are sure to have trouble choosing just one favorite.

This summer at *Salolampi*

June 9-14	Family Week
June 15-21	Soiva Music Camp at Salolampi
June 16-21	1-week session (ages 7-14)
June 23-July 5	2-week session (ages 11-18)
June 23-July 19	4-week credit session (grades 9-12)

Would you like to learn more about *Salolampi*? Check out the presentations and the *Salolampi* Sampler Program while at FinnFest. www.salolampi.org

June

June 6–7 Nisswa-stämman Nordic Music Festival. Nisswa-stämman will once again take place at the Nisswa Pioneer Village, in Nisswa. The music festival has grown to into one of the largest traditional Nordic music festivals in the upper midwest. This year over 150 folk musicians are expected, among them Kip Peltoniemi and Finn Hall. (218) 764-2994, pwilson@brainerd.net or www.nisswastamman.org

June 7 Rajaton sings ABBA. Rajaton sings ABBA with the Minnesota Orchestra, Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. www.minnesotaorchestra.org

June 14 Finnish-American Summer Festival Timber Hall, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Embarrass. sisuheritage@yahoo.com

June 20–June 22 Midsummer at Palmquist Farm. Celebrate Midsummer at Palmquist Farm, which has a rich Finnish heritage that is still celebrated today. Your Midsummer Celebration includes traditional Finnish meals, wood-burning sauna, Knox Creek Heritage Center Scandinavian Dinner, two nights lodging in cozy cabins with fireplaces, Finnish baking demonstration by owner Helen Palmquist, hay ride to view The Farm's nature & buffalo, ending at local winery for wine tasting. Also included, a presentation by owner Jim Palmquist about The Farm's Finnish history (you are encouraged to bring Finnish family pictures & stories to share) Cost: \$150/person/all inclusive Place: Palmquist Farm, Brantwood, WI www.palmquistfarm.com (800) 519-2558

June 27–29 The Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

Celebrate the unique cultures of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Scandinavian America and experience the finest in Nordic Entertainment, Arts, Traditions and Contemporary Cultures at the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival in Fargo and Moorhead. www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org

July

July 19–20 Finn Days. Finn Days at Ironworld, Chisolm, MN Musical performances include Finn Power, Finn Hall, John Scaffeo, Erv's Variety Band and the *Nyt Naura* comedy trio. Plus, take tango lessons, play *mölkky*, taste ethnic foods, shop the *tori* Marketplace, enjoy traditional costumes, and much more! Admission \$8 for adults, \$7 seniors, \$6 students, and free for children 6 and under. (800) 372-6437 www.ironworld.com

July 24 A Prelude to Duluth's FinnFest 2008 Fidelity Investments Sommerfest: Osmo Conducts Finland's Finest. You'll hear the beloved Fifth Symphony of Sibelius, with which Osmo and the Orchestra wowed Carnegie Hall audiences last year. Add Aho's extraordinary Ninth, and you're set for an evening of fascinating, illuminating music. Orchestra Hall, 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$16–\$45 www.mnorchestra.org

July 23–27 FinnFest 2008: Sharing the Spirit of Finland

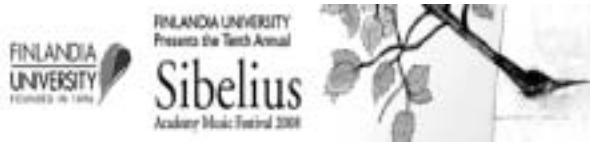
The four major themes are:

- **Culture** – the appreciation of the customary beliefs, social forms, and material traits of the Finns, spanning generations both in Finland and the USA
- **Music** – the exploration of the signature works of Finland's most influential and eminent composers, as well as prominent folk musicians
- **Women** – the impact of Finnish women in Finland and the USA
- **Finnish-Ojibwe Integration** – the study of the interaction of two distinguished cultures.

Complete information: www.FinnFest2008.com.

While at FinnFest, don't miss Eli Bissonett and LynnAnne Vesper, back from the Kaustinen Folk Music School, Thur. at 9:00 a.m., in Lake Superior Hall.

July 27–August 2 SISU Finnish Language and Culture Seminar. Programs and lectures focus on a variety of topics relating to Finnish culture, music, architecture, politics, folklore, and more. This event will be at the University of Minnesota Duluth. Contact Kathleen Ristinen, kaisa@eurekanet.com (740)592-1157



August

July 30–August 1 *Tenth Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival*

Each year, Finlandia University invites professional-level classical musicians from the Sibelius Academy of Helsinki, Finland, to present this series of full-length concerts. The festival honors our Finnish heritage and celebrates the contemporary synergies between Finlandia University and Finland.

Wednesday, July 30, 7:30 p.m. – *Melis Jaatinen*, mezzosoprano, and ***Maija Väisänen***, piano, Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock.

Thursday, July 31, 7:30 p.m. – *Joonas Ahonen*, piano, Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock.

Friday, August 1, 7:30 p.m. – *Kaisa Koivula*, clarinet, and ***Jukka Ojala***, accordion, St. Peter's by the Sea Church, Eagle Harbor.

Concert tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students. Finlandia University students and children age 12 and under are admitted at no cost. For advance tickets, click the link below, call Finlandia's North Wind Books at (888)285-8363 or (906)487-7217, or visit www.finlandia.edu. Tickets also available prior to each performance.

The Sibelius Academy was founded in 1882. The Academy is named for the much loved late 19th century Finnish composer Jean Sibelius who was both a student and professor at the Academy. The Sibelius Academy is the only university of music in Finland, and the largest in Scandinavia.

Finlandia University, founded in 1896 as Suomi College, is an accredited baccalaureate degree-granting learning community. Located in Hancock Michigan, Finlandia is the only private university in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and one of 28 colleges and universities affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is the only university in North America founded by Finnish immigrants

August 2 *Petrell Hall Summer Music and Dance Festival*

Sponsored by the Petrell Hall Centennial Committee, this all-day fundraiser features music by the Finn Hall band, FriendsOnTheRange dance troupe, and Brian and Sheralyn Barnes, a mandolin vocal duo playing a wide variety of musical styles. \$8.00 admission for adults and teens; children 12 and under are free. Petrell Hall, a historical log Finn hall is located fifty miles northeast of Duluth and Lake Superior. Brimson, Minnesota (612) 624-0823, hanso107@umn.edu

August 22 *September Uutiset deadline*

Send copy to mary.belanger@dctc.edu, images to bethjarvi@gmail.com

August 24 *Pesäpallo*

Come to Newell Park in St Paul, at 3:00 p.m., Sunday afternoon for a game of Finnish baseball. All ages and abilities are welcome to join in this family friendly game. We will start with a review of the rules of the game. *Suomi-koulu* will provide juice and water. Bring your bat and glove if you have them. In addition to the baseball field, Newell Park has two playgrounds, grills and picnic shelters and indoor bathrooms. Bring a picnic and stay all evening! Newell Park, 900 Fairview Ave. N., St. Paul, <http://www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/facilities.asp?search=1&CID=1&pagenum=4&RID=76&page=list>

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 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone |

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 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____

Return to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708 or bring to the next program.

How to Conjugate . . .

By LynnAnne Vesper and Eli Bissonett

Southern Ostrobothnians have a reputation for being stubborn. Here is the correct way to conjugate the verb “olla oikeassa” (to be right) in the Southern Ostrobothnian dialect:

Mo'on oikias	I am right.
Soot väärás	You are wrong.
Son väärás	He/she/it is wrong.
Mooma oikias	We are right.
Tootta väärás	You (pl.) are wrong.
Non aiva mettäs!	They are way out in left field! (literally, in the forest)



Eli playing his jouhikko.



LynnAnne with her handmade 10-string kantele. See FinnFest (pg. 5) for a bit more about Eli Bissonett and LynnAnne Vesper.

Pieniä Paloja

- The most popular grade of **motor fuel** in Finland, 95 octane unleaded, costs at least a EUR 1.55/liter in many places. In Europe the rising trend is mitigated by the fact that the US dollar, which is the currency in which crude oil is quoted, has been declining in value. Largely for that reason, petrol in Finland costs only ten per cent more than it did two years ago. (One euro is worth approximately USD 1.55).
- The parasitic **mistletoe plant** has been found growing on apple trees in Parainen, in the southwest of Finland. Mistletoe is spread by birds pecking at the white berries, and scraping the seeds of the plant onto branches of trees, where they take root. Mistletoe takes nutrition from its host plant, weakening it.
- **Climate change** could bring an unprecedented number of so-called climate or environment refugees to Finland. The number of people seeking shelter in Finland has been growing by about 11%, compared with the same time the previous year.
- With a bit of **snus** stuffed under your upper lip, you can sit anywhere without drawing fire or unwelcome attention. Although it is illegal to sell in Finland, young people have learned how to order snus via the Net, much of it marketed to both men and women from neighboring Sweden.
- A United States navy vessel will search for the wreckage of the Finnish passenger aircraft **Kaleva** shot down by two Soviet bombers in the coastal waters of Estonia on June 14, 1940.

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.)

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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

FACA CALENDAR

Looking Ahead:

Sept. 14-Jan. 4 *The Saarinen Exhibit*

The Saarinen exhibit "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future" Minneapolis Institute of Arts and Walker Art Center www.walkerart.org

The first major museum retrospective of architect Eero Saarinen's short but prolific career. Featured in the exhibition are never-before-seen sketches, working drawings, models, photographs, furnishings, and films from various archives and private collections.

Oct. 3-5 *Salolampi Fall Work Weekend*

October 17 *Rajaton Sings Queen with the Minnesota Orchestra.*

Rajaton Sings Queen with the Minnesota Orchestra, 8:00 p.m. Orchestra Hall, 1111 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis. www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Dec. 20 *Service of Finnish Christmas Carols*

A celebration with choirs, instrumental music, readings, refreshments. Free will offering to benefit children's ministry in Karelia/Russia, 3:00 p.m., St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1660 West County Road B (south of 36 between Snelling and Fairview), Roseville. (651)501-8892, (651)633-8221.

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.