

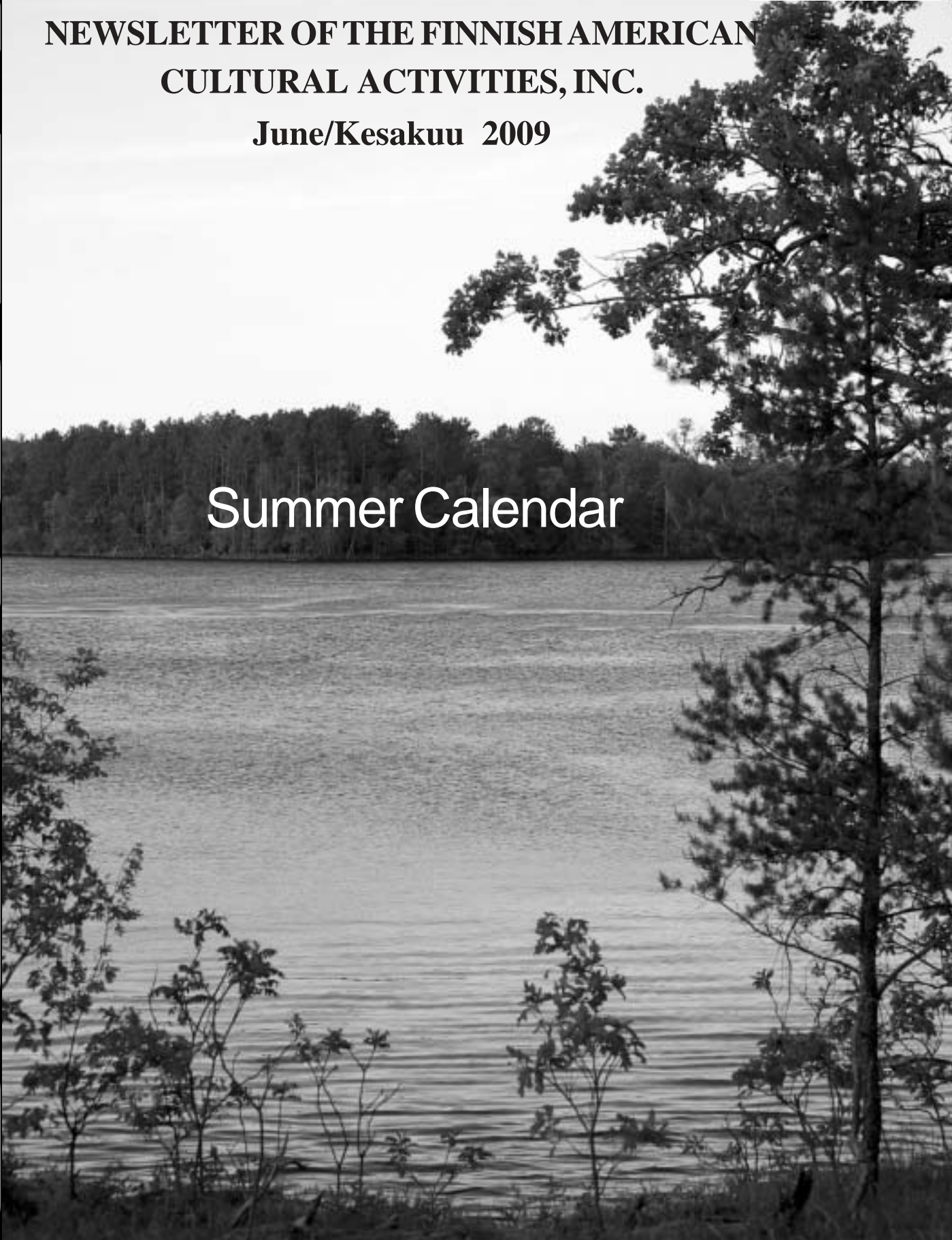
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**NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN  
CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.**

**June/Kesakuu 2009**

**Summer Calendar**



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## Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations

By Junelle Bernard

I hope you were all able to attend the Festival of Nations this year. It is such a unique event and it is fun feeling like part of the global community. We had a successful café, earning about \$2000 to use for *Salolampi* scholarships.

It is a lot of work to prepare the foods we serve and it takes many hands. Merja Wilenius and I would like to say *kiitos paljon* to all who helped frost cookies, cut strawberries and whip cream for the shortcakes, prepare reindeer sausage sandwiches, make egg coffee, serve pickled herring, *piirakka*, *pulla*, and fruit punch, keep track of our cash box, wash dishes and keep our booth tidy. Our terrific helpers were: Urho and Pam Rahkola, Ernie and Marlene Banttari, Jeanette and Rick Weidner, Anita and Ron Wieneri, Dixie Luoma, Kathy Chambless, Jane and Keith Olson, Stella and Harvey Arola, Edie Boos, Ruthann Swanson, Linda School, Stu and Laura Bernard, Carol and Ray Pesola, Merryalice and Bob Jones, Sharon Filiatrault, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope, Kara Middleton, Gil and Dawn Kinnunen, Anita and Bert Johnson, Betty Wheelcor, Theresa and Clyde Lund, Cassie and Richard Lund, Ramona Larson, Bette Ruskanen, Linda Davis, Bernice and Anna Kuure, Elsa Hoover, and Andreas and Kaisa Ostenso. Thanks too to all who stopped by to say hello and to sample our wares. This is truly a group effort.



Merja Wilenius and Junelle Bernard  
take a break at Festival of Nations



Marlene Banttari and Laura Bernard  
at Festival of Nations

Photos: Joan Selover

## Board Notes By Stella Arola



*L-R Stella Arola, Jeanne Swope, Andreas Ostenso, Ruth Wilkman, Kaarina Kotkavuori, and Jane Olson*

The Board met at the home of Kaarina Kotkavuori on May 12th.

The treasurer's report and the secretary's minutes were approved.

We had a wrap-up report on the Festival of Nations Finnish Café by Junelle Bernard. The café's success was largely attributed to her planning and organizing of volunteers. Junelle has generously agreed to be chair of next year's café and has enlisted Jane Olson to assist her.

Mary Belanger who was present at the meeting made a number of creative suggestions for improving the FACA Newsletter. She said she would appreciate receiving pictures and articles for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Our plans for participation in the Hjemkomst Festival in Fargo-Moorhead is well underway—we are excited about the prospect of getting some exposure for FACA in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

We are still seeking volunteers for the board. We need one new board member this year and three new board members for the following year.

Our Program Chair discussed several interesting possibilities for programs for the coming year. Our next board meeting will be at Jane Olson's home on August 18th.

## Festival of Nations Baking Day, A First Timer's Perspective

*By Kara Middleton*

About twenty FACA members participated in the Festival of Nations Baking Day on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at White Bear Lake High School.

Volunteers have been gathering to prepare traditional Finnish foods to be sold at the Festival each spring for

more than 40 years. As a new FACA member and first-time volunteer, I saw what a vast undertaking it is to prepare cookies, cakes, *piirakka*, and *pulla* to serve an event that can draw 60,000 people from start to finish. Kaisa Ostenso taught me the fine art of applying the rice filling and folding and crimping the dough to make *Karjalan piirakka*. Dan Salin brought a nice variety of Finnish music, which added to the festive atmosphere. This year we prepared 64 cakes for the strawberry shortcake, 240 *Karjalan piirakka*, and 180+ dozen lemon cookies. Marlene Banttari also baked 12 loaves of *pulla*.

Talking to Marlene, I learned about some of the other menu items that have been prepared throughout the years. Marlene remembers making *Karjalan paisti*, a beef and pork ragout seasoned with allspice and served with mashed potatoes. During another year the Finnish Café sold *liha piirakka*, made by Soile Anderson, with rice and ground beef in a deep-fried crust. I also enjoyed hearing others share their family traditions of baking *piirakka*, bread, or *pulla*. I thought of my grandparents and how meaningful all of these foods were to them, and how glad they would be to see these traditions perpetuated. Participating in Baking Day this year gave me a feeling of pride. If you are able to volunteer for it next year, I highly recommend it. It contains some of the best ingredients for happiness: flour, butter, sugar, music, friendship, and a shared purpose.



Kara Middleton and Kaisa Ostenso

### 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

**Photos from Baking Day**  
 Photos: Dan Salin



Katy Overtoom and Jane Olson



Joan Selover, Merja Wilenius and Stella Arola



Kara Middleton, Kaisa Ostenso, Betty Wheelcor and Jeanne Swope

**Baking Day 2009**  
 By Junelle Bernard

April 25<sup>th</sup> was Baking Day for this year's Festival of Nations. A crew of 29 started baking at 8 a.m. at White Bear Lake High School kitchen; and by 2:30 p.m., we had produced and packaged all the cakes, cookies, *pulla*, and *piirakka* needed for the festival. It is a real feat of coordination and cooperation, and is lots of fun too.

This year was special because Marlene Banttari made 12 loaves of her famous *pulla*. We are able to complete the process so quickly because we have seasoned baking day "veterans" who come and do the same task each year and are very good at it, whether it be making cakes, cookies, or *piirakka*, running the ovens, washing dishes, or packaging all the products. We welcome our newcomers too and soon have them trained to work on the product or process of their choice. I want to thank all of the following for a superb job: Pam and Urho Rahkola, Dan and Delores Salin, Marlene and Ernie Banttari, Jane and Keith Olson, Kathy Jackson, Marge Stewart, Linda Davis, Carol Pesola, Stella Arola, Edie Boos, Joan Selover, Dixie Luoma, Kathy Chambless, Betty Wheelcor, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope, Kaisa Ostenso, Kara Middleton, George Valo, Jenny Borovsky, Katy and Emily Overtoom, Merja Wilenius, and Stu Bernard.

**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.

## **“Hirsi Haali” - The Old Log Hall, Petrell Hall, in Brimson**

*By Jeanne Swope*

For our May program, Dr. JoAnn M. Hanson wove together the stories of the Petrell family and of Petrell Hall, a restored Finn hall in Brimson, Minnesota.

JoAnn is an adult educator and oral historian of second generation Finnish-Americans. She presented some of her research into the history of Petrell Hall and the life of the Petrells, Brimson area Finnish pioneers.

Edwin Petrell (originally Peltari) was born in Finland, in a poor family. In 1901, he immigrated to Minnesota, where he again worked at many jobs, at this time in Minnesota and the Dakotas. His farming and brick-laying experience served him well. He bought land in Fairbanks (original name of Brimson) and built his house, trading labor with the friend who persuaded him to immigrate, John Lillberg. He married Olga Berstrom, a Swedish Finn he met in the U.S. The couple began their married life sleeping on the Lillberg's floor because their house wasn't finished, cooking potatoes in a wash basin, and farming the difficult St. Louis County land.

Everyone worked hard (even the trained bull—see photo). Edwin still had to travel in order to work. He had to live away from home for days and weeks. He worked, often as a bricklayer, in Two Harbors and Duluth. He helped build the Iron Range schools. Olga was often on her own. She needed to learn to speak Finnish, since that was the language of her new community. She maintained the homestead, bore and raised four children, started a postal route, and even served as postmistress, carrying a rifle to do some



Finnish American Cultural Activities

hunting on her route (see photo), and learned photography, recording many community events through the years.

The Petrells placed a high value on education and on the good of the community. They sold three acres of their homestead to the Fairbanks Finnish Work People's Society for \$15.00, “as a site for a hall to be used for social uplifting of the working class forever.” Petrell Hall was built in 1911-12 by volunteer hand labor, and Edwin was the first temporary manager of the Farmer's Store Association. Besides the store, activities in the building included Workers' Society, the Society of Enlightenment, an actors guild, study club, the Toimi Hall Association, band, and chorus. Socialist activities were held there. Community picnics were a feature of life.

Today Petrell Hall is again a community center. The Petrell Hall Centennial Committee, a small group of dedicated volunteers of which JoAnn Hanson is co-chair, presents public programs and fundraising events for the continued preservation of the hall and for its hundredth anniversary celebration in 2012. If you search for Petrell Hall Brimson via Google, you will see records of many events, some centering on the preservation and upcoming centennial, others indicating a wide variety of community meetings. Just what the Petrells and other Brimson pioneers would want to see!



### **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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Email \_\_\_\_\_

# NISSWA-STÄMMAN

**June 12-13 Nisswa-stämman 10** at the Nisswa Pioneer village in Nisswa, Minnesota. Nisswa-stämman has grown into one of the largest traditional Nordic music festivals in the upper midwest. This year 150 folk musicians are expected, among them Esko Järvelä, Tuomas Logrén and Sara Puljula of Finland, Kip Peltoniemi, Ralph Tuttila, Arne Salli. Paul Wilson (218) 764-2994, [pwilson@brainerd.net](mailto:pwilson@brainerd.net), [www.nisswastamman.org](http://www.nisswastamman.org).

Scandinavian instrumental and dance workshops, featuring top level musicians will take place on one day only **June 12** and are offered in conjunction with the Festival. Cost for the sessions will be \$20 per each 2 hour session, or \$35 for two sessions. (from the same teacher). Note: All workshops are generally taught by ear and participants are encouraged to bring recording devices.



Northern Minnesota residents **Eli Bissonett** and **LynnAnne Vesper** spent the 2007–08 school year in Finland studying folk music in an education program which is organized by the Finnish national Folk Music Institute in Kaustinen. Their performance will include a demonstration of instruments which they built and learned to play: the natural flute and the ancient Finnish instruments *jouhikko* and *kantele*. Inspired by modern Finnish folk musicians, LynnAnne and Eli are evolving their own style, which adds American flair to Nordic folk music.

**Saana Ensemble** is a quintet of Finnish women living in the Twin Cities, Minnesota. They perform authentic Finnish music for audiences who are interested in ethnic music, and for the Finnish American

community and expatriates in Minnesota and elsewhere. Their repertoire ranges from folk and dance tunes to sacred hymns and contemporary music, both a cappella and accompanied by guitar, accordion, clarinet, mandolin, recorder, piano, and percussion. Saana Ensemble has performed in Minnesota, Michigan, and Canada since 2005; and in 2007 they released a CD.

**Kip Peltoniemi** hails from Minnesota's famous Finnish Triangle, which was at one time the hotbed of button accordion music. Kip's solo album, entitled *Minnesota Tango*, is available now. Finnish Tango man **Ralph Tuttila** will be there, fresh from FinnFest 2009! Make sure to pick up Finn Hall's just released CD, *Tule Tanssimaan (Come Dance)*.

**June 13 Finnish-American Summer Festival.** Great entertainment planned—the Jarvenpaa Singers, Dave Tak and the Finnbillies, and May Praacher, Weather Booth with Roland Fowler, Finnish-American dinner, museum and gift shop open, ethnic and local merchandise and food, boot throwing contest, children's activities, demonstrators, tour of historical farmsteads. Fun events for all. Timber Hall, Hwy 21, in Embarrass, Mn.. Call (218) 984-3012, 984-3503 or e-mail at [sisuheritage@yahoo.com](mailto:sisuheritage@yahoo.com).

**June 19–21 Palmquist Farm, Finnish Mid-summer Celebration.** Palmquist Farm has a rich Finnish heritage still celebrated today! Join them for this unique weekend! If you have any questions or would like more information, please call (800) 519-2558 or e-mail [palmquistfarm@centurytel.net](mailto:palmquistfarm@centurytel.net)

**June 19–21 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival,** Clatsop County Fairgrounds, Astoria Oregon

**June 19–21 Mesaba Co-op Park 80<sup>th</sup> Midsummer Festival,** Hibbing, Mn. (218) 262-1350 for more information.

**June 20 Midsummer kokko** and other events, 6:30 p.m., Temperance Corner, Cokato, Mn (320) 286-5823

**June 20 Scandinavian Midsummer Festival,** 11:00 a.m., Presque Isle Park, Marquette, Mi. (906) 226-9350

**June 26-28 70<sup>th</sup> Finnish Canadian Grand Festival,** Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. cultural programs, demonstrations, meetings, lectures, food, and lots more!  
[www.finlandiavillage.ca/suurjuhlat2009](http://www.finlandiavillage.ca/suurjuhlat2009)

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

**June 26–28** A Nordic Feast for the Eyes, Ears and Heart **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival**, in Fargo ND/Moorhead Mn!

Friday the festival opens with a Parade of Flags and continues with special events and daily programs through Sunday at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Community events begin on Wednesday, June 24, with a Norwegian Smørbrød luncheon, Swedish Midsummer Fest, and storytelling in the public libraries. Nordic Nightlife, scheduled Friday evening, features Festival performers in downtown Fargo businesses.

A variety of Scandinavian music genres will be the highlight of the Festival. One can hear the ancient sounds of the drum and Saami Yoik, to the traditional and electrified *kantele*, as well as fiddles, accordions, and songs by a few voices to a full chorus. Enjoy a feast of Nordic foods, too, in the Taste of Scandinavia and at the Rokki Café, designed as an outdoor coffee café in Finland. Search for your Nordic roots in the Genealogy Resource Center. Take the Traditions Tour and fill up your passport with stamps as you explore the Nordic cultures. A Nordic game room and Moomin videos will be shown along with hands on activities available for all ages. Exhibits featuring Finnish architecture, the Native/Finnish connections, and the sauna will be displayed.

**Saami Siida Camp and more at Festival**

Finnish Expo 2009 will include a Saami Siida Camp provided by Chris Pesklo of Northern Lavvu and the Sami Siida of North America. Included in the camp will be demonstrations and fully dressed lavvus, along with an Ojibwe wigwam display. Comparisons of the two cultures will make meaningful connections. A reindeer display and antler jewelry demonstrations will



be provided by Daryl and Yvonne Simon and Bev Herda of Crystal Collection Reindeer from southern Minnesota.

The Festival's featured storyteller this year will also be Saami. Marin Hinderle, a master storyteller from Minneapolis, will share stories and songs of the Saami people both in the public libraries and at the Festival. In addition, this will be the first year to include a Saami musician in the entertainment lineup. Nathan Muus, who grew up in Cook County, Minnesota, has both Norwegian and Saami roots and has participated in many Scandinavian festivals performing the "Yoik" or traditional Saami singing.



Festival details will be posted at [www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org](http://www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org).

***Tervetuloa iltakahville!***

(Welcome to/for evening coffee)

The Red River Finns cordially invite guests participating in and volunteering for the 2009 Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival to an evening dessert reception on **Thursday, June 25**, from 7 - 9 p.m., at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Moorhead. This event offers a chance for the local Red River Finns club to connect with Finnish groups in the region. The evening will feature *mansikka kakku ja kahvia* (strawberry cake and Finnish coffee) and allow attendees to make Finnish connections. Please RSVP to (218) 299-5452 or [FinnishFriendship@yahoo.com](mailto:FinnishFriendship@yahoo.com) by June 15. *Kiitos!*

**June 27 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Finnish Music Festival**

Covington Pavilion & Event Center, M-28, Covington, Michigan. Finnish music, dancing, workshops and food throughout the day. Admission \$10 Adults, \$5 Youth (8-16) and children under 8 Free. Randy Seppala (906) 355-2459 or Jim Lohmann (906) 355-2382 [www.playdembones.com](http://www.playdembones.com) or [www.covingtonmichigan.org](http://www.covingtonmichigan.org)



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

**July 20–August 3** Heritage Tour to Finland. Details [www.finnish-heritage-tours.ca](http://www.finnish-heritage-tours.ca)

**July 25** Finn Day at Ironworld. Musical performances and buffet. Visit [www.ironworld.com](http://www.ironworld.com) or call (800) 372-6437 for performance times and ticket prices.

**July 28–August 1** Finn Grand Fest 2010 is coming to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario <http://finngrandfest2010.com/>



**Aug. 28** *Utiset* copy deadline. Copy to [mary.belanger@dctc.edu](mailto:mary.belanger@dctc.edu)

**Sept. 18** FACA Program, 7:30p.m. International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul, Mn.

**Sept 27** Christ Church Lutheran National Historic Landmark celebration. More information at a later date. [www.christchurchluth.org/building/friends.html](http://www.christchurchluth.org/building/friends.html)

## Pieniä Paloja

- *Kiitos* to May servers: Junelle Bernard, Merja Wilenius, Marlene Banttari, Jane Olson and Betty Wheelcor..
- FACA and *Koivun Kaiku* member **Al Norgard** was featured in an article of the May issue of *The Finnish American Reporter* for his talents in restoring old and neglected *kanteles*. The article talked about folks working together, preserving the Finnish heritage and keeping it alive and thriving.
- The **Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra** will be taking off for a tour in Budapest and Vienna in November..
- **Fiskars**, Finland's oldest company, has manufactured close to 1 billion of their orange handled scissors since they were introduced in 1967. They also make the small trenching shovels used by our U.S. Marines. The company was founded in 1649. Fiskars is the parent company of both Iittala and Arabia.
- The **Finnish Red Cross** says that it needs blood donors as the supplies of donated blood are unusually low. Spring is a challenging time for getting people to donate.