

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

March/Maaliskuu 2007

Two for the price of one: or how and why written and spoken Finnish are so different from one another

Presented by:

Dan Karvonen, University of Minnesota

Have you ever wondered why spoken Finnish is so different from written Finnish? Is written Finnish somehow *better* than spoken Finnish? Why is it so hard for foreigners to understand what Finns are saying after having spent so much time and energy learning the language? As a foreigner, should I bother learning the spoken language?

Many foreigners are surprised to learn how different spoken Finnish is from written Finnish. Most textbooks focus on the written language, but in daily life Finns use a variant of the language in communicating with one another that can be quite different from the standard language used in the press and taught to foreigners. Words are shortened, and different words may be used in the written and spoken languages for the same thing. In this talk, I'll discuss why written and spoken varieties of languages exist, and why written and spoken Finnish in particular are so different from one another. Finally, I'll discuss why it's important for foreigners to learn the spoken language, even though traditionally it has gotten little attention in textbooks geared toward foreigners.



MARCH FACCA PROGRAM

**Finnish Language
Friday, March 16
7:30 p.m.**

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

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

Dan Karvonen is lecturer in Finnish at the University of Minnesota where he teaches Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Finnish. As a Finnish-American, he grew up hearing Finnish from his grandparents and finally learned the "secret language" of his grandparents while in high school as a Rotary exchange student in Finland. He later studied Finnish at the University of Minnesota, Indiana University, and at the University of Helsinki. He's a linguist by training, and received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 2005.

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

The last few weeks have been fairly busy with events, concerts, and problems with our place up north. During the last few weeks of subzero temps our furnace decided that when it got colder than 10 below zero it was time to take a rest until the temperature got warmer. We spent a couple of nights feeding wood into the wood burner to keep the house from freezing, while we waited for parts from Duluth. We did get the furnace fixed, so we were able to come back home. We attended a couple of wonderful Minnesota Orchestra concerts featuring Sibelius and Beethoven symphonies. After the second concert there was a reception in Orchestra Hall where the Finnfest USA board, Finnish Cultural Counselor, Duluth Finnfest 2008 organizers, and local Finns had a chance to gather and meet Osmo Vänskä, conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra. It was a very fun evening and most who attended agreed that we should do this type of thing more often. The concerts which feature Beethoven's music include an actor which portrays him, who mingles with the crowd throughout the evening. I looked hard but didn't see Sibelius anywhere. Maybe we should remind the Orchestra to invite him next time!

Another recent event was the *Laskiainen* celebration we co-sponsored with *Suomi-koulu* at Como Park on Feb 18. We had a good crowd there and I thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. There was the traditional treat of pea soup and *Laskiaispulla*, good Finnish breads and coffee, and drinks for the children. Al Reko and Johanna Doty provided some great Finnish folk music to liven the atmosphere. You might remember from my last article that the main events for the day were the kicksled competition, sliding and skiing. We even had reasonably good snow conditions for the first two, though there could have been more snow for the skiing. The kicksled competition was held as the North American Qualifying for the World championship in Multia, Finland (I'm not sure if anyone will be going from here, but not for lack of enthusiasm). The World Championship sponsors sent small gifts to all the competitors as a way to show their support—maybe someone will get inspired and eventually make their way into the championship because of this. I was even convinced to enter the race (the first time I ever tried a kicksled) and had a lot of fun. My downfall was the added part of the race which had the racers throwing tennis balls in a pail near the end of the trail before they could cross the finish line. A new sort of biathlon! Now I know kicksled use would be a good way to keep in shape while having fun. Thanks go out to Ben Lind, a local kicksled dealer who turned up and allowed us to use his sleds. All the sliders—young and old alike—had a good time and it looks like the flax crop should be in good shape next year as there were lots of long runs down the hill. After all the outdoor activities it was time for good food and fellowship in the chalet. I want to thank all who contributed food and time in organizing the event, and thanks to Al and Johanna for the entertainment. I hope we can do this again next year!



Festival of Nations Café

By Junelle Bernard and Merja Wilenius

We are coordinating the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations again this year. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare items ahead of time and to help prepare and sell items at the Festival. The Festival will be held May 3-6 at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Baking Day is set for April 28 at the White Bear Lake South Campus kitchen.

Our menu is similar to last year: Karalian *Piirakka* (Karalian rice pies) with egg butter; pickled herring on Finn Crisp (both in wine sauce and in sour cream/lingonberries); Finnish havarti on Finn Crisp, Nordic sandwich (open faced with sausage, cheese, tomato, cucumber); strawberry shortcake; lemon cookies; spiced fruit punch; egg coffee.

On Baking Day, we will be making cakes, cookies and *piirakka*. If you baked last year, you will be called to see if you would like to participate again this year. We will have a sign-up sheet at the March and April FACA programs to fill out the shifts. We will also call those who worked at the Café last year and will have sign-up sheets at the programs. We look forward to working with you! If you have questions or would like more information call Junelle at 763-434-5399.

St. Urho's Day

The legend of St. Urho recounts his chasing the grasshoppers out of the Finnish vineyards by saying, "*Heinäsiirkka, heinäsiirkka, mene täältä hiiteen!*"

Don't forget to wear your purple and green! That's St. Urho's Day, March 16.

Confuse your Finland relatives! Send them Urho's Day e-cards! (They've never heard of him!)

Board Notes *By Luella Zibell*



L-R: Andreas Ostenso, Luella Zibell, Barbara Nikula Owens, Alan Norgard, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Floyd Niskanen

The February 20th meeting of the Board covered a wide range of events and topics for discussion and decision. The regular reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were reviewed and received.

FACA will donate a one-year membership in FACA for inclusion in the Silent Auction at the Hjemkomst Festival. Kaarina Kotkavuori will be a voting member at the Finnish Expatriate Parliament in Helsinki in September.

The Finnish Consortium is working on plans for events surrounding the 90th Anniversary of Finnish Independence. The Art Exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be an extraordinary opportunity for the Upper Midwest.

We are seeking nominations for Board members—the Annual Meeting and Election will occur at the May program.

Celebrate St. Urho's Day with Finn Hall

Friday, March 16, Music begins at 7 p.m. with Northfield's Nordic Jam. Short program at 8 p.m. followed by music and dancing with Finn Hall at the Eagles' Club, Northfield. The 3rd Annual St. Urho's Day celebration will be held in conjunction with an Eagles' Fish Fry. The meal runs from 5:30-8 p.m. Price for dinner \$8 adults; \$4 children 14 and under. A donation will be collected to defray Finn Hall's expenses. For more information, call 507-645-4812. www.finnhall.com

Take a look at Finn Hall on youtube at a recent dance in Ishpeming, MI. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4-o2gaM89k>

Sunday March 18th Finn Hall will be playing for the Scandinavian Dance, Good Templar Hall, Cedar Ave and Lake St. Minneapolis. Dance instruction at 5 p.m, social dancing from 6-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome, no partners necessary. Join in the fun of dancing to great live music. \$7/\$8 with dance lesson. Potluck snacks always welcome.

Kicksleds, *Laskiaispullat* and Music

By Marlene Banttari

Hyvä, hyvä, cheered on the children and adults at the first annual kicksled races at the Como Park *Laskiainen* celebration hosted by *Suomi-koulu* families and FACA on Sunday, February 18, 2007. The warm Como Park Ski Chalet, sliding and ski hills were ideal locations for the event. A large crowd of *Suomi-koulu* families and children along with FACA members and friends came to enjoy or observe the outdoor events and have the traditional lunch of pea soup, *laskiaispullat* and beverages. Music by Al Reko and Johanna Doty entertained the overflow crowd.

A highlight for the day was a collection of kicksleds supplied by Ben and Linda Lind, Houston, Minnesota, known by the business name, Scandia Kicksled, importers of products from Scandinavia. Several people went home with a kicksled and the anticipation of trying a new winter sport. Ben brought sleds for the race, related supplies and information about the products that they sell. Linda Mattila Lind has Finnish American parents and grandparents. She and Ben have introduced kicksleds to many people at FinnFest and other ethnic celebrations. For more information, visit their website: www.scandiakicksled.com. E-mail: alpine@acegroup.cc or write: Scandia Kicksled, 7155 State Highway 76, Houston, MN 55943.

Compliments go to the organizers of the event—the historic conducting of the first-ever World Championship level kicksled races, topped off with food, music and conversation.



Photos: Al & Betsey Norgard, Phil Luoma Anderson

The Evolution of the FACA Newsletter

By Tiina Watts

The FACA Newsletter, or FACA *Uutiset*, has changed looks and editors numerous times throughout the years of FACA's existence. The first FACA newsletter in the editor's files is from March 1989. The editor was Jon Ketokoski. Hannu Rautakallio was presenting a lecture on *Finland and the Superpowers* in the monthly program and there was an article on the Festival of Nations. In November 1989 Sirkka Liisa Anttila was speaking on the topic of *Early Childhood Education in Finland* and Ulla Tervo-Desnick was looking for students to join the newly formed *Lauantai koulu* (the predecessor to *Suomi-koulu*).

In September of 1990, Louise Mattila of Minneapolis became the editor. During her editorship there were programs on *Finnish American Rag Rug Weavers* by Yvonne Lockwood in 1991; the brass septet *Ameriikan Poijat* performing; *Using Ethnic Heritage as a Source for Writing* by Inkeri Väänänen; and *Glimpses of Swedish Finland* by Betsey Norgard in 1992; *Moose Hunting in Finland* by Vesa Haapaniemi and Marian Eliason in 1993; and *Finnish National Costumes and Kalevala Jewelry* by Liisa Ojala in 1994.

In September of 1994 a newsletter committee was formed. Heading the committee was Sue Nikunen-Knauer, who did the desktop publishing, printing, mailing and made sure everything else got done. Aili Jarvenpa and Diane Jarvi presented a music and literary program in December 1994; Anita Middleton showed her film *Karelian Fever* in April 1995; Mary Oberg Hanf discussed *Sami Stuff from Finnish Television* in May 1995. An interesting sounding program in March of 1997 was *When Sisu Fails: The International Bad Finn Society* by Marcelle Williams. Probably the first FACA program I attended was the April 1997 program with architect David Salmela giving a presentation and the *Pikku Kisarit* dancers performing. We had moved to Minnesota in January of that same year and shortly thereafter I had contacted Jon Ketokoski, whom I had met while singing at a pizza place in Salt Lake City, Utah (my sisters and I sang a Finnish pop song and he came up to talk and later sent me a Koivun Kaiku kantele ensemble tape). He introduced me to FACA and my husband and I joined in March. In September of 1997 the program was Craig Johnson playing Finnish and Finnish-American music on the

piano and included in the newsletter was a request for a new newsletter editor and a layout person. Sue Nikunen-Knauer was retiring and planning on doing some traveling. In January 1998, Julie Pinomaki, a committee and FACA board member, took over as newsletter editor, with Jim Kultala as graphic designer. I joined the committee as co-editor in March of that year and when Jim moved to Wisconsin, Rick Beddoe took over the graphic design, and printing, using his expertise from his job at Xerox.

In May 1999 the long search began for a new graphic artist, with me taking a Pagemaker class and doing the job from 1998 until 2003. Some of that time the newsletter was put together in the old-fashioned cut-and-paste way, especially if I wasn't able to make it to Marian Eliason's (the scanner and photographer) to scan photos or artwork. Gradually, I learned how to do everything on the computer, including emailing the whole thing to the printer. This was a great relief after having to bundle up my little ones each month, head to Kinko's with a disk and hope to get everything to print out how I wanted, and then drive to St. Paul to Minuteman Press first thing Friday morning so they would have time to get everything ready by Monday. Urho Rahkola would pick up the stack of newsletters and drop them off for many years at Reino Jokinen's house, where he and his wife Evelyn would put a stamp on each one and drop them in the mail. Since Reino's death a few years ago, Urho and Pam Rahkola have taken care of the mailing of almost 300 newsletters each month. In September of 2003, Beth Jarvis volunteered to take over the job as graphic artist and is continuing her faithful service with the new FACA newsletter editor, Mary Belanger, who started her tenure in February 2007. Best wishes for many great years with FACA, Mary and Beth!

Below: January 1999 and March 1989



***Fire and Ice* returns to the Twin Cities!**

If you missed seeing *Fire and Ice*—the Best Documentary movie from last year’s International Film Festival—you have another chance. Or, if you’ve only seen it on TV or DVD, you’ll want to see it larger than life on the big screen.

Filmmaker Ben Strout, who created this award-winning documentary about Finland’s Winter War, will be back in the Twin Cities for one showing only of his film on Friday, March 30. Following the film, Strout will talk about the making of the film and answer your questions.

Fire and Ice tells the story of the Soviet Union’s invasion of Finland in November 1939. No one expected tiny Finland to resist the Soviet army, the largest military force in the world. And no one expected 1939 to be one of the coldest winters in recorded history—calling it a frozen hell. The Winter War changed the course of what would soon become World War II.

Filmed on the old battlefields of Finland and Russia, with amazing re-enactment troops, the movie’s action is captivating, even for those not inclined toward military movies. Woven into the action are interviews with soldiers from both sides who fought in the battle, as well as the poignant narrative from Finnish poet Eeva Kilpi, whose family lost their home in Karelia and had to flee the war.

This showing of *Fire and Ice* is co-sponsored by Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities and Minnesota Film Arts. Filmmaker Ben Strout is supported by Finlandia Foundation National during 2007 as their Lecturer of the Year.

Fire and Ice will be shown on Friday, March 30, at 7:15 p.m., at Bell Museum, University of Minnesota, located at 10 Church Street, at the intersection of 17th and University Ave. S.E. Tickets are \$8 general admission, \$6 seniors, and \$5 Minnesota Film Arts members and students (with valid ID). For additional information, contact Betsey Norgard at norgard@winternet.com or call 651-786-5988 (eves.).

Parking is available in Nolte Garage, next to Bell Museum.

From the Editor

My husband and I had the opportunity to attend the Minnesota Orchestra concert *Beethoven, Sibelius, Vänskä II*, Thursday night, February 8, at Orchestra Hall.

We were in for a great evening that began with the commanding percussion of Sibelius: *In Memoriam*, (my favorite of the evening) and the astounding Symphony No. 4 in A minor. *In Memoriam*, written in 1909, is to be said to have been composed in memory of Eugen Schauman, who assassinated General Nikolay Bobrikov, the Russian dictator over the people of Finland. Symphony No. 4 was begun in 1910 and completed in 1911. Sibelius felt he had new and different experiences to pull from for this symphony, including the music of composer Mahler, who influenced him greatly. Following a short intermission we were treated to Beethoven: Symphony No. 5 in C minor. What music lover could not be excited upon hearing those first four notes which start and continue throughout the first movement! It was a great evening, capped by having my new Beethoven Ninth Symphony CD signed by Osmo Vänskä. If you haven’t had the opportunity to hear the Minnesota Orchestra, I encourage you to do so! There are a variety of seat prices and there isn’t a bad seat in the house. Arrive downtown early and enjoy dinner at one of the many restaurants located within walking distance. One of my personal favorites is *The Local*, located about a block away.



Pieniä Paloja

- The feature film project about the life of **Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim**, Commander-in-Chief of the Finnish Defense Forces during World War II, may begin filming as early as next year. Solar Films plans to make an announcement at the beginning of June—a date that marks the 140th anniversary of Mannerheim's birth.
- **Major Asian countries are visiting Finland.** Last year the number of nights spent in Finland by tourists and business travelers from India increased by 45 per cent over 2005. This growth is attributed to Helsinki's position on the eastern edge of Europe, as well as to the increase of the Finnish national carrier **Finnair**, and the overall growth in travel between Europe and Asia.
- Since the 2005 pension reform, the **retirement age of Finns** has been rising. Fewer people aged 63 to 65 take retirement than previously, and more and more older citizens stay at work, thanks in part to the good employment situation.

Hot Off the Press!

The Rowan Tree: The Lifework of Marjorie Edgar, Girl Scout Pioneer and Folklorist, With Her Finnish Folk Song Collection, "Songs from Metsola"

Marjorie Edgar established the first Girl Scout troop in Minneapolis (1915) and fostered use of folk songs by her troops. From the 1920s through the 1940s, she gathered folklore and folk songs, especially from Finnish immigrants and their descendants in northern Minnesota.

The Rowan Tree, by Joyce Hakala, is a "meticulous yet sprightly biography [that] not only traces that indomitable song-catcher's life but also introduces the influential performers Edgar knew. It also treats us to a flawlessly annotated presentation of Edgar's legendary, yet never-published, manuscript on traditional Finnish song." (James P. Leary, University of Wisconsin)

Join the Celebration!

An Open House and Book Signing Party will be held Saturday, March 31, 2007, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. International Institute, 1694 Como Avenue, St. Paul, (Information: Call Joyce Hakala at 651-578-3203)

Palo Laskiainen

By Kaarina Kotkavuori

I finally went to the *Laskiainen* celebration in Palo this year. The weather was - 30 degrees below 0 without the wind chill figured in. There were many people who went sliding to the sounds of polkas and waltzed blaring—I was not one of the brave. The celebration began on Friday night with the crowning of the *Laskiainen* royalty. The Finn Hall band played a march for the royalty court. Afterwards, everyone from ages 5 to 85 danced the evening away with enthusiasm. On Saturday morning, breakfast was served to 300 people. I helped clear dishes and can confirm that I work faster when someone is playing the accordion! Sunday's special lunch treat was yellow pea soup.

Demonstrations of handiwork were a part of the celebration. I enjoyed watching Kathy Jackson show how to take the flax out of the grain and explained how cloth is made. I also enjoyed talking with a woman who was knitting mittens (I came home with a pair). Other handiwork demonstrated and sold included jewelry, hats, woodcrafts, boots and soap. The favorite item for sale was squeaking cheese. I spent time in the *Tori*, the Finnish museum, listening to music and talking with old and new friends. There was no shortage of coffee. The two days went flying by almost as fast as sledding down the hill.

I had a great time and look forward to making an annual trip up north to the festival in Palo.

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 _____



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

March 10 The Latebirds with *22-Pistepirkko* 8:00 p.m. at The Cedar 416 Cedar Ave. S., Mpls. Check out The Cedar website www.thecedar.org for more information.

March 21 Deadline for articles, event information, etc., for the April FACA newsletter. Send text to Mary Belanger, and photos to Beth Jarvis. (See p. 2 for contact information).

March 30 *Fire and Ice*, Bell Museum, University of Minnesota, (See p. 6 for info.)

April 1 Deadline for receiving the Earlybird scholarship of \$60 to \$110 for Salolampi Finnish Language Village Summer Youth Sessions. Many more scholarships are available. See www.salolampi.org or call 800-222-4750.

April 19-28 25th Annual Minneapolis-St. Paul International Film Festival. Check www.mnfilmarts.org for the schedule of Finnish films.

April 25 Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. The Schubert Club International Artist Series: Karita Mattila Ordway

Center, 345 Washington Street, St. Paul MN 55102; (651) 224-4222. For more information: www.schubert.org, www.ordway.org

April 28 Festival of Nations, Baking Day White Bear Lake South Campus kitchen.

May 3-6 Festival of Nations, St Paul RiverCentre.

May 11-13 Salolampi Spring Work Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji.

Come help clean, build and make repairs as needed at the village, and get free lodging, entertainment and Finnish food and sauna! For information contact Harlan Haanpaa at baseball@uslink.net or call (218) 326-6884.

May 13-19 Salolampi Spring Adult Week. For details email kennedy@cord.edu or call (800) 450-2214 or see the website at www.salolampi.org.

June 24—Sept 2 *A Mirror of Nature: Nordic Landscape Painting 1840-1910* Minneapolis Institute of Arts www.artsmia.org

July 26-28, 2007 Finnfest USA 2007 at Ashtabula, Ohio, with the theme: "A Great Lake; A Great Heritage." See www.finnfestusa2007.com for information and to register.