

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

March/Maaliskuu 2008

Window to the Past (rescheduled from January) presented by Darrel Nicholson

A Sociological Survey of the Finnish Settlement of New York Mills, Minnesota, and its Adjacent Territory, by Ralph Smith, is a rare window to the past. Completed in 1933, it provides an intricate cross-section of life during the most vibrant times of the so-called Finnish Triangle.

The work was accidentally rediscovered by Darrel Nicholson, himself native to the area, about 30 years ago. In the intervening years, Nicholson supplemented the compilation with previously unpublished parts and added new source material in the form of letters written from Karelia. This has culminated in the re-publication of the work in 2005 with profits going to the Timo Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center (IHRC).

Ralph Smith was an Irish-American, an outsider, when he became the principal of a junior high school in New York Mills in 1929. Perhaps this outsider status sparked his interest in studying what was then the dominant ethnic group. He turned his research into a master's thesis which was approved by the Department of Sociology at the University of Southern California in August of 1933.

While much has been written about Minnesota's Finnish American community, Smith's survey stands out for a number of reasons. Perhaps first and foremost is that it is a contemporary work of the era. All the information and data was collected first hand by the author. The text is in present tense which gives it a sense of immediacy missing in retrospective works. While many accounts of Minnesota's Finns are written as memoirs or diary compilations, the survey is crisply factual. While being quite readable, there is also a certain detachment which one might expect from a master's thesis. Finally, at 170 pages and containing numerous direct quotes, pictures, graphs, maps and tables, it has a tremendous depth and scope. The survey touches on almost every aspect of life and should be considered a source of information for future researchers.

We hope you can attend FACA's March program where Nicholson will speak more about Smith's remarkable work. Copies of the book will also be available for purchase.

MARCH FACCA PROGRAM

Window to the Past

Friday, March 14

(a week earlier than normal)

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



Well, *Laskiainen* has come and gone; some of the pea soup is now in the freezer (you can only eat so much—and after making it for two celebrations, you need a break). The footsteps of men, dressed in green and purple and chasing grasshoppers, echoing in the distance can mean only one thing – spring is not too far away. And with spring comes the annual Festival of Nations. I hope most of you will consider taking some time to volunteer at the baking day, in the exhibit booth, or in the *café* again this year. It doesn't need to be a big time commitment for anyone, if we get enough people to spend just a few hours at the Festival. The signup sheets will be circulating at the next couple of programs so be sure to watch for them and volunteer!

It was disturbing to hear the news last week that Pirkko Gaultney was killed during a robbery of her home in Minneapolis. Many of you may have known her through her work as dean of Salolampi in its early years. I knew her as a fellow member of the *Koivun Kaiku kantele* group for the first couple of years after we organized. Those were the years when we struggled with keeping track of just five strings, but we had a lot of fun, too. Although she has not been a member of FACA recently, I think she may have been a member at one time. Our condolences go out to her friends and family.

I hope that many of you are planning to go to FinnFest 2008 in Duluth this summer. A benefit fundraiser was held on March 1 (as I am writing this, it is still in the future) to help spark interest in attendance. If you look at the website www.finnfest2008.com, you can see some of the events scheduled for the 5 days from July 23-27. Registration information and forms will be available there. Through various contacts and word of mouth, I have heard about what should be an impressive festival. The planning group has already done a lot of work and has some creative ideas going on. The city of Duluth has also signed on in a big way and I have heard they have even planned to have their flower gardens and boulevard planters featuring blue and white this summer! Osmo Vänskä and the Minnesota Orchestra will be highlighting the performance schedule. This is the 25th FinnFest and promises to be a good one – see you there!

Remember, on April 18th we will be meeting at St. Peder's Lutheran Church, 4600 East 42nd Street in Minneapolis, instead of the International Institute. The program will be in the fellowship hall and parking is mostly on-street. Please tell others you know (who may not get the *Utiset*) about the change.

Summer Music and Dance Festival

The Petrell Hall Centennial Committee is sponsoring a Summer Music and Dance Festival on August 2. The all-day event will raise funds for the hall in preparation for its 100th anniversary coming up in 2012.

Performers include Finn Hall, Friends On The Range dance troupe, and Brian and Sheralyn Barnes, a mandolin vocal duo, all playing a wide variety of musical styles for audiences of all ages. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and teens; children 12 and under are admitted free.

Petrell Hall, a historical log Finn hall, is located fifty miles northeast of Duluth and Lake Superior. For more information call (612) 624-0823 or email hanso107@umn.edu We hope to see you in Brimson!

Online Calendar

Sometimes we get word of events that are too late for our deadline. These events will be over by the time the next *Utiset* is published.

To be as timely as possible, we've added a link on the Finn FACA website to give you late-breaking events. Click on: <http://www.finnfaca.org/Calendar.html>

If you have calendar items, send them to Mary.Belanger@dctc.edu for inclusion in the next *Utiset*. The newsletter generally arrives in members' home a week before the next meeting, usually the third Friday of the month. If your event missed the copy deadline and it is coming up soon, send copy to Beth at brjarvis@umn.edu and she'll add it to the website. You'll receive an e-mail confirmation of inclusion.

Remember, back issues of the *Utiset* are archived as PDF files on the website. Just go to www.finnfaca.org and click on FACA newsletters.

Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



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

The February Board meeting was convened by President Al Norgard at his home on February 12th. The Secretary's minutes of the last Board meeting and the Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

A meeting place for the April FACA program was discussed and it was decided that the April FACA program would be at St. Peder's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

It was decided that Board members would provide the pea soup for our February program—our *Laskiainen* celebration—and that members were asked to provide something for the potluck, such as bread, *pulla* or a dessert. We are hoping that Darrel Nicholson will be able to provide his "Window to the Past" program at our March program inasmuch as he was unable to come to our January program. Professor Arnold Alanen will be providing a talk on pioneer Finnish structures at our April program.

Ongoing plans for the Festival of Nations on May 1-4 were discussed. The menu has been settled. We will be seeking volunteers for baking day on April 26th and also for the four days of the Festival at the Café and the Cultural Exhibit.

An executive decision was made to donate a \$25 FACA membership for the silent auction at the next meeting of the Nordic Culture Club of Fargo.

We have finally received a Finnish flag from *Suomi Seura* which will be presented to the Finnish Genealogy Group at its meeting on February 23rd. Whether we are going to continue FACA membership in *Suomi Seura* was discussed but no final decision was made.

Festival of Nations *Café*

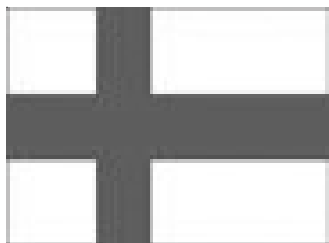
By Junelle Benard

The menu has been finalized and shifts for working at the Festival are filling up. Thanks to all who have volunteered so far. Last month, I neglected to say that we will again have pickled herring in sour cream and lingonberries as well as plain herring in wine sauce. This has been very well received at the last two Festivals. We found a source for the reindeer sausage, so that will be served with Finnish Havarti cheese on flatbread. Festival hours on Thursday, May 1, and Friday, May 2, during the day are student hours.

General Public hours are:

Friday, May 2	4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 3	10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 4	10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Volunteers in the *Café* booth are expected to wear ethnic costumes. We have aprons and head scarves for the ladies; men need to wear dark slacks, white shirts and some kind of hat (fisherman or duffer), if you have one. Suspenders are a nice touch. We need people who like to greet the public and sell our products as well as people who will assemble the strawberry shortcake, frost cookies, make coffee and make sure we don't run out of product up front. It is frantic at times, but mostly a lot of fun. The shifts on Thursday and Friday are filled, but we need help all day Saturday and Sunday. Shifts are about 4 hours long, and volunteering gets you a free ticket into the Festival. Since the Exhibit also needs volunteers, it would be especially nice if you could arrange to spend some time at each location. There are still a few people needed to help at Baking Day on April 26 at White Bear Lake High School. The hours that day are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and you can work morning or afternoon. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, call me at (763) 434-5399 or email at SJBL2@msn.com I'll look forward to hearing from you!



February Program Recap

By Al Norgard

We celebrated *Laskiainen* this year with Edina-based singer-songwriter Jonathan Rundman as our guest performer. As part of our festivities we also had a two-part potluck.

After the business meeting, we served the first course of traditional pea soup along with various meats and cheeses, pickled herring, and smoked fish. With about six different varieties of pea soup to try, it was an opportunity to find a favorite among them. After eating our soup, we settled in for a wonderful musical presentation by Jonathan Rundman. His program featured original songs covering many topics. He gave a brief biography—starting with his childhood in Ishpeming, Michigan, where he grew up in the musical tradition of the *Suomi* Synod, followed by learning to play various instruments in local rock and pop music groups. Mix this in with an interest in architecture, theology, travel, Finnish roots, and libraries; and you begin to understand why he can write and perform such a wide variety of music. He has also lived in Chicago and Oregon and has only recently settled in the Minneapolis area, but still travels often in the United States and has performed in Finland and Sweden. Jonathan's ability to explain the background and themes of each song he presented gave the audience a much better insight to his music and helped us see the many sides of his personality. He has several recordings available and most of the songs he performed were from those albums. He sang and accompanied himself on guitar, mandolin, harmonica, and piano—and even had the audience serve as the rhythm section for one song. If you missed his program, he will be performing at FinnFest, so check him out if you can – I think you will like him.

After the program, we all were treated to a huge selection of desserts: *pulla*, cakes, brownies, cookies – if you had a sweet tooth, this was the place to be. Our potlucks usually do very well in the dessert department! A little coffee or juice, and conversation with friends capped off the evening in fine fashion. Thanks to all who came and made it a successful *Laskiainen* evening!

FinnFest 2008 Update

The time is getting closer! If you haven't been keeping up-to-date, FinnFest 2008 is coming to Duluth, July 23-27. The organizers are confident that this upcoming FinnFest will be as successful as the one held in 1992.

Highlighting the five-day celebration will be a concert by the Minnesota Orchestra, directed by the Finnish Music Director Osmo Vänskä. The President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, has been officially invited to attend the event; and the FinnFest 2008 organizing committee is hopeful to host President Halonen along with other dignitaries from Finland.

“Sharing the Spirit of Finland” hits four major themes, culture, music, women and the Finnish-Ojibwe Integration.

- 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

The most current information is at the website www.FinnFest2008.com. Registration and lodging information have now been posted.

The FinnFest 2008 *tori* will feature special products from local, national and international vendors, showcasing everything from handcrafts to sauna builders. Live entertainment will also be provided by a variety of musicians on the *tori* stage.

The tradition of having a *tori* at FinnFest events comes from the old Finnish infrastructure, where every town had their own marketplace in a central location. The *tori* will be a place where people can meet, enjoy the music performances, and buy unique products.

Tervetuloa kaikille!

Sad News

Former FACA member Marcella (Marcy) Kulla Hagel passed away February 6. Marcy was involved with the Finnish Genealogy Group from its earliest days. Marcy has authored four family history books and worked for the DFL and Augsburg College. Cards can be sent to Warren Hagel and family, 1960 Glenpaul Avenue, Arden Hills, MN 55112. Funeral services were held February 12 in New York Mills.

On February 14, the *Star Tribune* newspaper reported the sad news that 70-year-old Pirkko Gaultney was murdered during a burglary in her North Minneapolis home on February 13. Pirkko Gaultney was the dean of Salolampi Finnish Language Village from 1982-1983, preceding current dean Lauri Saukko. Pirkko was a former FACA member. She was preceded in death by parents, Victor and Hilda Hill, brother, Eero Hill and husband, Ezra Floyd Gaultney, Jr. Survived by son, Victor, and four grandchildren.

Funeral services for Pirkko Gaultney were held on Thursday, February 21, at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Interment near Finland, MN. Gifts can be sent to the church for later distribution.

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.

AlaKönni Opisto Folk Music School

By LynnAnne Vesper and Eli Bisonette

Housed in the Folk Arts Center in Kaustinen, the *AlaKönni Opisto* Folk Music School is simply one of a kind. Nowhere, at least in Scandinavia, can one find a program that offers such world-class instruction at a reasonable price for folk music enthusiasts of any level. Students focus on a main instrument while also receiving general instruction in a large variety of traditional Finnish instruments. The main instructor, AnneMarie Häkämäki, and the members of *Tallari* (photo below) teach folk song, private lessons, or give special lectures on a specific topic. Academics are routinely integrated into class time, including music theory and simple arranging and composing. The curriculum also includes more hands-on and practical work in instrument building, folk dance, and studio recording.



Students can access other resources in the Folk Arts Center such as the folk music library, an enormous literary and sound file archive, and the Museum of Finnish Folk Instruments. Most importantly, the general atmosphere is fun and nurturing and generously accommodates the individual needs of each student.

But wait, does this sound interesting? Even if you believe you are far past the age at which those young virtuosos started playing the fiddle, Kaustinen has a program for you. The *AlaKönni* Folk Music program is a year-long education in folk music. We (well into our 20's and 30's respectively) are studying in this program this year. Anyone who has played some music is welcome to come and learn.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.akopisto.fi/> (Finnish) or email (English is fine): ako@kaustinen.fi

The Folk Arts Center website (Finnish): <http://www.kaustinen.net/kansantaiteenkeskus/index.asp>

University of Minnesota Hosting Finnish Fulbright Scholar

Katri Kivilaakso, a Ph.D. candidate in Finnish literature at the University of Helsinki, will give a talk at the University of Minnesota titled "From Me to the World: Trends in Contemporary Finnish Literature;" on Wednesday, April 9 at 4:00 p.m., in Room 128 Folwell Hall, 9 Pleasant St. S.E., University of Minnesota, (east bank campus).

Katri Kivilaakso is serving as a Fulbright Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistant at the University of Minnesota in 2007-08. Kivilaakso's area of expertise is Finnish literature, so since her arrival in September, she has worked with second- and third-year students to help them develop greater proficiency in reading Finnish. She meets with students outside of class, helps lead the weekly Finnish conversation hour, and recently started a Finnish reading group for current and former students and others in the community with advanced Finnish skills.

"Having Katri here enriches the Finnish Program by giving students the opportunity to hear different perspectives on Finnish culture and contemporary Finnish life," says Finnish senior lecturer Daniel Karvonen.

Kivilaakso will discuss literary features that characterize recent works by such prominent contemporary Finnish authors as Kari Hotakainen, Pirkko Saisio, and Kjell Westö. In their works, they depict the world from the micro-perspective of an individual "I", mixing personal memory, historical documents, and imagination, thus blurring any clear-cut boundaries between genres. The talk is free and open to the public.

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.

Additional Calendar items

June 14 Finnish American Summer Festival, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Timber Hall, Embarrass, MN. Finnish meal, entertainment Finn Power and Ken Saari Band, Embarrass weather display, boot throwing contest, tour of historical Finnish-American farmsteads, Nelimark House Museum now open, children's activities, local crafts, Finnish merchandise, and more. Admission \$4; children under 13 and members with current membership card FREE. Call Marlin (218) 9843012 or email sisuheritage@yahoo.com

July 23–27 "Sharing the Spirit of Finland," Finnfest 2008, Duluth, www.finnfest2008.com (See p. 5 for more information.)



Aug 2 Petrell Hall Summer Music and Dance Festival, \$8.00 admission fee for adults and teens; children 12 and under, free. Petrell Hall is located fifty miles northeast of Duluth, in Brimson. For more information call (612) 624-0823 or email hanso107@umn.edu (see p. 3 for more information)

Upcoming Events at Orchestra Hall

Thursday, April 10, 11:00 a.m. and Friday, April 11, 8:00 p.m., *Osmo Vänskä Conducts Mahler- A Lincoln Center Preview.*

Thursday, May 29, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 30 and Saturday, May 31, 8:00 p.m. *Crash! Bang! Boom! Percussion Festival II*, Osmo Vänskä, conductor

Thursday, June 5, 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 6, 8:00 p.m. *Crash! Bang! Boom! Percussion Festival Finale*, Osmo Vänskä, conductor

For ticket information, contact the Minnesota Orchestra, 1111 Nicollet Mall, (612) 371-5642 or (800) 292-4141. www.minnesotaaorchestra.org

Pieniä Paloja

• Servers for the February FACA program were the **FACA board** along with **Pam and Urho Rahkola. Kiitos!**

• **New "granny cottages"** are being sold in Finland to meet pensioners' dreams of a return to the quiet country life. Small cottages, painted in the familiar red-earth colors and white window frames, standing on the edge of a forest, remind buyers of visits to the grandparents when they were young. The basic idea of these newly built summer cottages is to look nostalgic, but still offer all the amenities available in newer homes.

• A little Beethoven is good for the brain. A recently published **Finnish study** shows that music helps people recover more quickly from strokes.

• **The mild and iceless** winter has kept most of the Finnish icebreakers tied up in port. In the Gulf of Finland, there has been no need for icebreaker services; and even in the Bay of Bothnia at the northern end of the Baltic Sea, only a small area has required icebreaking services.

• **Nokia** has hired Dave Stewart of the Eurythmics fame to support an artist-friendly collaboration. The idea behind the undertaking is to strengthen Nokia's credibility in the entertainment industry, where equipment manufacturers such as Nokia and Apple are competing over the traditional music industry market.

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 14 FACA Program (*note date change*)

March 15 Annual St. Urho's Day Celebration with Finn Hall and Multe. Get a head start on St. Patrick's Day by celebrating Finnish /Nordic style! Beginning dance instruction from 7:00-8:00 p.m. with Ralph Tuttila and Ruth Sylte. Short program at 8:00 p.m. with a possible appearance by St. Urho himself! Eagle's Club Main Hall (with another great wooden dance floor!) in downtown Northfield, 304 S. Water St. \$5 per person / \$15 per family donation which goes to support the music. For more information, contact multe@charter.net

March 16 6th Annual St. Urho's Day Mojakka Cook-Off at Northeastern Hotel, Cloquet, Minnesota. More information: <http://mojakka.com>

March 16-18 St. Urho's Day Celebration, Finland, Minnesota.

March 21 April newsletter copy deadline. Articles to Mary at Mary.Belanger@dctc.edu

March 28 Finn Hall will play 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. Bring the children! Great food, beer, wine, and dance space!

\$2 cover charge. For more information: [Ralph Tuttila raulit@msn.com](mailto:Ralph.Tuttila@msn.com)

March 30 *Salolampi* scholarship *extended deadline* for FACA and *Kisarit* Finnish American Folk Dancers scholarships. More information and applications, contact Kathy Jackson, (651)739-3102.

April 5 Pasty and Spring Bake Sale 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church, 13030 47th Avenue North, Plymouth

April 9 Katri Kivilaakso speaks on "From Me to the World: Trends in Contemporary Finnish Literature," at U of M at 4:00 p.m. For more info, see p. 6.

April 26 Baking Day, Festival of Nations White Bear Lake High School, Junelle (763) 434-5399 or SJBL2@msn.com

May 1-4 Festival of Nations, RiverCentre, St. Paul To volunteer, see p. 4.

June 6-7 Nisswa-Stämman Folk Music Festival, Nisswa

May 9-11 *Salolampi* Work Weekend. Contact: Harlan Haanpää harlanhaanpaa@msn.com or (218) 326-6884.

More calendar, p.7