



# Uutiset

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

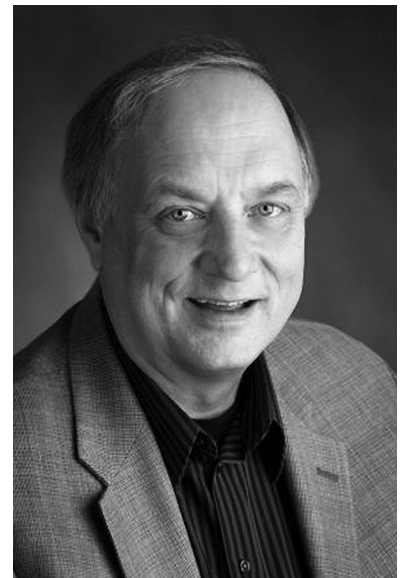
March/Maaliskuu 2011

### **Rockland, a Finnish mining opera** **Craig Randal Johnson**

FACA is delighted to have member Craig Randal Johnson present music and information on the Pine Mountain Music Festival premiere of the Upper Peninsula opera *Rockland*.

This opera is based on a long-forgotten incident in Rockland, Ontonagon County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in 1906, when a group of striking Finnish copper miners were confronted by sheriff's deputies. Shots were fired, and two Finnish miners were killed. One of the miners, Alfred Laakso, wrote an account of the events, which his grandson, Andy Hill, read a few years ago and thought would make a good piece of musical theater. He discussed this with John Kiltinen, who saw possibilities for an opera.

John Kiltinen pitched the idea to Pine Mountain Music Festival, whose board liked it. In short order, John Kiltinen and his wife, Pauline, raised the money for the commissioning phase, partly from themselves and partly from Gloria Jackson, who has family roots in Nivala, Finland. Jussi Tapola, a well-known stage director at Finnish National Opera, is the librettist, and Jukka Linkola, a renowned composer with several other operas and symphonic works to his credit, is the composer.



#### Program In Brief

**Rockland**  
**Craig R. Johnson**  
**Friday, March 18, 7:30 p.m.**  
**International Institute**  
**1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**  
*If you need transportation, call*  
*Marianne Wargelin*  
*at (612) 374-2718*

This opera will be performed on July 15 and 17, 2011, at the Rozsa Center in Houghton, Michigan. Johnson will be the conductor of the 43-person orchestra for *Rockland*. He is a Minneapolis-based conductor, pianist, and double-bassist, and a strong proponent of Finnish music. He has conducted FinnFest USA concerts in Minneapolis, Marquette, Michigan, and Ashtabula, Ohio, and will be artistic director for the concerts at FinnFest 2011 in San Diego.

The Old World Premiere will take place at the Nivala Festival (*Jokilaaksojen Musiikkisäätiö*) in Nivala, Finland, a few weeks earlier.

*More on Rockland and the Pine Mountain Music Festival on pg. 3.*

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## President's Message

By Kara Middleton

Thank you to all of you who helped to make our celebration a success on February 18th. We especially thank Helinä Pakola, whose film on the *Kalevala* featured some very talented youth and adults bringing parts of the *Kalevala* to life. (See Ray Piirainen's very fine recap in this issue if you were unable to join us.)



Afterward we enjoyed a bountiful meal which included so many wonderful dishes in addition to our pea soup. Thank you to all of you who cooked and baked for the event! Thanks to both Jeanne Swope and Kathy Jackson, we had our pick of two yellow pea soups, in addition to the standard green split pea soup. This got me wondering about the history of split pea soup. According to what I read in my brief research, yellow pea soup is more commonly prepared in Sweden, whereas the green split pea soup is more common in Finland. Pea soup with pancakes is still served every Thursday in both the Swedish Armed Forces and the Finnish Defense Forces. And pea soup is apparently a popular school food in Finland, being economical and easy to prepare.

The geographic origin of peas is not known, but record exists of split pea soup being sold by street vendors as early as 400 B.C. in Greek and Roman society. Charlemagne is credited with making peas popular in France during his reign around A.D. 800, after which they became a fashionable food for the aristocracy; and they have remained important in French cuisine ever since. Throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, a porridge made of dried peas simmered in a kettle over the fire in many peasant homes. Dried split peas were an affordable source of protein when meat was hard to obtain. I also learned that there are over 1,000 types of peas grown today. One article I read reported that Thomas Jefferson was said to be so fond of peas that he and his Paris-trained chef planted over thirty varieties in his garden! It is amazing that one small aspect of our lives – in this case, pea soup – can, when examined, reveal so much of the world's history and our connection to that history. It seems to me that finding connections between ourselves and the past feeds something in us, and it is the reason that I enjoy being a part of FACA.

Speaking of connections to the past, please join us on March 18th for Craig Randall Johnson's presentation about the opera, *Rockland*. A story about Finnish copper miners around the turn of the century in Upper Michigan has got to touch the family histories of many of us. I look forward to learning more about it. *Nähdään siellä!*

## Happy Birthday, George!

We can't acknowledge all birthdays (because usually we don't know about them), but here is one special birthday that we do know about. Our best wishes to George Valo, who will turn 90 during the month of March.

## 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 her home; all members were present.

Minutes of the January meeting and the Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved. FACA member Veijo Paine kindly donated a speaker fee he earned when he made a presentation to the group "The Young Sociables" of his experiences as a child during World War II in Finland and Sweden. Many of us remember very well his fine presentation several years ago to FACA.

Kara Middleton led a discussion regarding the mission of FACA and where we want to go in the future. The emphasis on culture is important. The Turpeinen evening by Finlandia Foundation will be cosponsored by FACA. She also reported on the most recent meeting with the Festival of Nations planning committee. We still need volunteers to create the booth materials. Junelle Bernard has cafe planning well in hand.

Vice President Ray Piirainen updated us on the upcoming program, *Laskiainen*, and *Kalevala* video presentation by Helinä Pakola.

Ray and Treasurer Edith Boos also provided us with a detailed budget spreadsheet, and we got a much better overview of income and outgo through the years and during the current year.

Contact Kara Middleton for the location of the next FACA board meeting, which will take place on Wednesday, March 16, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

## The Logo

In the Rockland logo, the pick symbolizes the mining profession of the protagonists, and generally the frontier life in which so many of the early settlers, our ancestors, struggled to survive and make a better life for their descendants.



The white rose provides contrast to the pick, indicating the love interest in the opera. The rose is also an interesting historical reference to Alfred Laakso's membership in the White Rose Temperance Society in Rockland.

The thorns on the rose stem (the arm of the "R") symbolize that life could be hard, and difficulties could arise.

## PMMF History

The Pine Mountain Music Festival (PMMF) was founded in Iron Mountain in Michigan's Upper Peninsula in 1991 by Laura Deming, a cellist and member of the orchestra of the Lyric Opera of Chicago. She invited several colleagues from Chicago to present a week-long chamber music series, and the programming expanded to include opera by the second year, and then expanded geographically into other communities, each about 100 miles apart. The series has grown from five or six events in one city to more than 40 performances, workshops, and master classes held in various combinations in the areas surrounding Houghton, Marquette, and Iron Mountain, with limited appearances in Escanaba, Munising, Minocqua, Wisconsin, and Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. The Festival now spans a five-week period in June and July.

### 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

## Finnish Flag Days

By Beth Jarvis

You see Flag Days listed if you receive the Suomi-Info monthly newsletter, <http://www.minnesotafinnish.org>. But what are they? I didn't understand the significance until Marianne Wargelin talked about Flag Days during a FACA program several years ago.

Flying the Finnish flag from public buildings is required on Flag Days. Some are mandated by law and some by custom and officially counted.

Those days required by law, as stated in statute are:

- **February 28**, day of Kalevala; the occasion is also celebrated as the Day of Finnish culture
- **May 1**, Vappu, the Day of Finnish Labor
- **Second Sunday in May**, Mother's Day
- **June 4**, birthday of Carl Gustaf Emil Mannerheim, Marshal of Finland; the occasion is also celebrated as the Flag Day of the Finnish Defense Forces
- **Saturday between June 20 and 26 June**, Midsummer Day; the occasion is also celebrated as the Day of the Finnish Flag. The flag is hoisted on Midsummer's eve at 6 PM and flown through the night until 9 PM the next day.
- **December 6**, Independence Day
- **Days when Finland holds parliamentary and local elections, elections to the European Parliament, or a referendum**
- **President of Finland inauguration day.**

Then there are the days deemed Flag Days by custom, not mandated by law:

- **February 5**, birthday of the National poet Johan Ludvig Runeberg
- **March 19**, birthday of Minna Canth, Day of Equality, beginning in 2007
- **April 9**, the day Mikael Agricola, the founder of the written Finnish language died and Elias Lönnrot, a collector of folklore was born; also celebrated as the Day of the Finnish language
- **April 27**, National War Veterans' Day
- **May 12**, birthday of the statesman Johan Vilhelm Snellman
- **Third Sunday in May**, memorial day for the war dead of the Finnish Civil War and World War II
- **July 6**, birthday of the poet Eino Leino; the occasion is also a celebration of poetry and summer
- **October 10**, birthday of the national writer Aleksis Kivi; the occasion is also celebrated as the Day of Finnish Literature
- **October 24**, Day of the United Nations
- **November 6**, Day of the Swedish Identity
- **Second Sunday in November**, Father's Day



## March 19 is Minna Canth Day/ Equality Day

By Beth Jarvis

Minna Canth's Day became an official Finnish flag-raising day in 2007, which makes her the first woman to receive her "own Flag Day" in Finland.

In 1987, Finland enacted an Equality Law committing the country to full equality for women. A list of goals was set forth to be completed by the end of the century that would also bring men into more traditional female roles, such as elementary school teaching and day care. The goal was to eliminate discrimination based on gender—period.

Minna Canth (1844 - 1897) was a Finnish playwright, journalist, and social activist. She was born in Tampere. Her family moved to Kuopio in 1853, where her father managed a draper's shop. She attended the Jyväskylä Teachers' Seminary, but instead of graduating, in 1865 she married her teacher Johan Ferdinand Canth, nine years her senior. From 1874 to 1876 she wrote for the regional publications *Keski-Suomi* and later for *Päijänne* (1878-79).

It was not a happy marriage, but, typical of the times, she had seven children surviving at the time her husband died in 1879. Canth returned to Kuopio and took over the management of her father's shop. (He had died several years earlier, and the business was suffering.) The business started to flourish, and Canth found more time to literary aspirations.

She wrote a number of short stories, then turned to writing plays. She began to write plays about social concerns, plays that explored the position of women and workers and the conflict between religion and Darwin's ideas of evolution. Her plays were attacked by conservative and religious authorities. In 1885, the Bishop of Kuopio declared that the emancipation of women was against God's order. Social criticism was a relatively new phenomenon in Finnish literature, and Canth was more outspoken than contemporary male writers.

Although the target of critics, she drew into her circle of friends such luminaries as Juhani Aho, Akseli Gallen-Kallela, Jean Sibelius, among others.

*Canth, continued next page*

## What to do in San Diego—Part Two

By Erin Belanger

With a tagline like, *Catch the Finnish Wave!*, which combines Finland with San Diego's beach culture, FinnFest 2011 celebrates its host city and offers an opportunity for Finns to discover this unique vacation destination.

There is no denying that sunny Southern California is the perfect place for any conference, and FinnFest is no exception. With so many sights to see and do, I want to make sure you that you have all the details to fill your free time.

Balboa Park, the gem of San Diego is a must see and is the nation's largest urban cultural park. Within the 1200 acres, there are 15 museums, an ornate organ pavilion, renowned performing arts venues, beautiful gardens, golf courses, lawn bowling, and the world famous San Diego Zoo. The park has an ever-changing exhibitions, plays, musicals, concerts, and classes—all in the beautiful and timeless setting of this historic San Diego attraction. This spectacular park is the place to go to experience the natural beauty of the city. It's also a place to explore San Diego's unique history, art, culture and to simply enjoy a fun day with your rakkaansa. The best part is admission is free to the park, gardens, and some museums.

Inside of the park there is also the International Village, which is a delightful and educational attraction in the park. In 1935, just in time for the 2nd World's Fair which was held in Balboa Park, a nonprofit organization decided to enhance cooperation, tolerance, and understanding between different nationalities within the United States by creating a cultural plaza. These cottages all have their own glimpse into each country's culture, history, and traditions. This village is open



### Canth, continued from pg. 4

Her health began to fail her in the 1890s. She died on May 12, 1897, in Kuopio.

Canth's plays are still popular among amateur and professional theatre groups. Many critics consider her the most outstanding Finnish playwright after Aleksis Kivi.

Finnish women were the first European women to win the right to vote, in 1906 and the first female members of parliaments won their seats in the 1907 election.

Sundays between noon and 5:00 p.m., with many of the houses offering food, drink, and music from their cultures. Among the nationalities is the House of Finland, which promotes and cultivates Finnish culture and traditions. The house also exhibits social activities and provides a friendly place for Finns to congregate. When I have visited the House of Finland, I enjoyed meatballs with gravy, pea soup, beet salad, Christmas tarts, and cinnamon rolls.

The International Village also showcases hour-long lawn programs which feature music, song, dance, and other special events on the outdoor stage.

Don't miss seeing the park, and be sure to stop by the House of Finland!

House of Pacific Relations International Cottages

Address: 2125 Park Blvd., San Diego

Open every Sunday between noon and 5:00 p.m.

[www.houseoffinland.org/](http://www.houseoffinland.org/)

Walking and Segway tours are also available at Balboa Park. If you are interested in taking a tour, I would love to be your guide. Email me at [erin@anothersidetours.com](mailto:erin@anothersidetours.com) to book a tour or for more information on any of the tours available at [anothersidetours.com](http://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)

### 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"/> Membership  | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Laskiainen</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pikkujoulu</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property    | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website     | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone   |

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

## February Program Recap *Laskiainen* and the *Kalevala*

By Ray Piirainen

FACA members and guests greeted each other at the February *Laskiainen* (Sliding Day) celebration with "*Liukasta laskiaista!*" ("Have a slippery sliding day!") A good crop season and good luck were thought by many Finns to follow a good mid-winter sliding festival in Finland. *Laskiainen* was originally the celebration (Shrovetide) before beginning of the 40-day long Easter fast practiced among the Catholics and the Orthodox Christians. Shrovetide was the last chance to enjoy forbidden foods. The *Laskiainen* meal was therefore a delicious feast.

Today, Shrovetide is more of a secular festival season, a time to spend a day outdoors with friends and family and to enjoy special Shrovetide-dishes. Sliding Day is celebrated seven weeks before Easter, usually in February, when the spring sun is welcomed joyfully in Finland for the first time after many dark winter months. (finlandtaste.blogspot.com)

Before beginning our *Laskiainen* pea soup (*bernekeitto*) and rolls (*laskiaispulla*), renowned violinist and founder of the Evergreen School of Performing Arts Helinä Pakola shared a 30-minute film which she produced of interpretations of three scenes from the *Kalevala*. The scenes were the Birth of *Väinämöinen*, Snatching of *Kyllikki*, and Forging of *Sampo*, the magic mill. *Kalevala* for Young People *Tuohitorvi soi* was filmed by Singing Strings *työryhmä*. The film uses song, poetry, and dance to bring *Kalevala* alive.

Then we began our *Laskiainen* feast much like the *Kalevala*'s (Rune XXI) description of the marriage feast of the blacksmith *Ilmarinen* to the witch of the North *Louhi*'s daughter Fairy Maiden of the Rainbow:

*Louhi* "served her guests in great abundance...  
Then the helpers served the others,  
Filled the plates of all invited  
With the varied food of Northland...

When the guests had all partaken...

*Väinämöinen*, famous minstrel...

Sang the joy of all assembled,  
To the pleasure of the evening...  
Grant O *Ukko*, my Creator,  
God of love, and truth, and justice,  
Grant thy blessing on our feasting,  
Bless this company assembled"

The February program *Laskiainen* program was indeed

blessed with good food, company, and conversation! In addition, as members and guests arrived and departed the festivities, they were treated to a golden full moon much like the moon recovered in the *Kalevala* (Rune XLIX) from the witch *Louhi* by *Väinämöinen* and *Ilmarinen*:

"Thereupon the blacksmith hastened  
To his brother, *Väinämöinen*...  
See, the Sun again is shining,  
And the golden Moon is beaming  
From their long-neglected places,  
From their stations in the sky-vault!"  
*Väinämöinen*, old and faithful...  
Saw again the golden moonlight,  
Bringing peace, and joy, and plenty,  
To the people of the Northland...

Let the Moon be ever with thee;  
Glide along thy way rejoicing, ...

To the good of all thy people, ...  
To the joy of *Kalevala!*"

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## Cream of Carrot Soup

*Porkkanasosekeitto*

1 pound of carrots (4-5 large)  
1 cup beef broth  
2 tablespoons butter  
2 tablespoons flour  
4 cups milk  
1 tablespoon sugar  
Dash pepper  
Chopped parsley  
Nutmeg

Scrape or peel the carrots. Cook until soft in the beef broth, adding water if needed. Drain, reserving the stock, and strain or mash the carrots to make a smooth puree. Heat the butter in a sauce pan, add the flour, and stir until blended. Add milk gradually, stirring to keep the mixture smooth. Heat to the boiling point and simmer for 10 minutes. Add the reserved stock, carrot puree, sugar and pepper. Garnish each serving with parsley and a dash of nutmeg. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



## Pieniä Paloja

- The Finnish National Opera, founded in 1911, opened its 100-year anniversary celebrations with a *Robin Hood* world premiere, and continues throughout 2011 with more premieres, guest performances in other regions and two exhibitions.
- For the first time in years, all Finland's ice-breakers are in operation. The pack-ice situation has worsened considerably with the recent cold weather, and several ships are stuck in the ice in the Baltic Sea.
- Finns are now enjoying more free time in comparison to the previous decade. They have three hours per week more at their disposal than in 1999, reports Statistics Finland.
- Vice President Joe Biden will visit Finland in early March. During the visit Biden is to meet Prime Minister Mari Kiviniemi and President Tarja Halonen. The prime minister and vice president will discuss the international financial crisis, among other issues.
- More than 400 Finns to be employed as summer temps by Europe's premier tourist attraction, Disneyland Paris.
- Helsinki is again deemed the sixth best city in the world to live in, according to the global liveability survey conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit. Helsinki is the only Nordic country to rank among the world's ten most liveable cities in 2011, where living conditions were assessed in 140 cities around the world.
- A plastic statue of Ronald McDonald was kidnapped from a Helsinki restaurant where the theft was described as "art and activism for better food." Credit for the action was taken by a group of activists calling itself the Food Liberation Army. The purpose was to draw attention to the ethical problems with the production of cheap food.
- Helsinki tourism went up in 2010. The Linnanmäki amusement park attracts especially Finnish visitors, while the Suomenlinna sea fortress interests both domestic and foreign tourists. The striking Temppeliaukio Church is one of the foreign tourists' favorite attractions.
- Apocalyptica just set out for a two-month concert tour to Central Europe, North America, and back to Europe. The current line-up has Eicca Topinen, Paavo Lötjönen, and Perttu Kivilaakso on cellos, together with drummer Mikko Sirén. On tour with them as a vocalist is Tipe Johnson, from Leningrad Cowboys.

## Calendar-continued from pg.8

**May 5-8** Festival of Nations, "Marketplaces of the World" St. Paul.

**May 28** Elections and open discussion of summer plans. 9:30 a.m., Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15. [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org)

## Breakfast Buns

2 cups milk  
1 package dry yeast  
1/4 cup warm water  
1/2 cup graham flour  
6 cups white flour  
1/4 cup butter -- melted  
3 tablespoons light molasses  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup raisins  
1 cup sugar

### Directions:

Scald milk, cool to lukewarm. Add yeast to warm water, stir until dissolved. Pour milk and yeast into large mixing bowl. Add graham flour and 2 cups white flour, beat well. Cover bowl and let rise 45 minutes.

Add remaining ingredients. Mix until dough is stiff. Knead until smooth. Place in bowl, cover let rise again until doubles in bulk, about 1 hour.

Cut off egg-sized pieces and shape into buns. Place on well-greased baking sheet, let rise 30 minutes. Brush buns with warm water, bake at 400° for 15-20 minutes. Serves 8.

## 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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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](http://www.finnfaca.org)

**Mar 12** “A Century of Viola Turpeinen,” co-sponsored by Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities Chapter and FACA, Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave., Minneapolis. 5:30 p.m., informal supper, sharing stories and memories, 7:00 p.m., lecture by Carl Rahkonen, Finlandia Foundation Lecturer of the Year, 8:30 p.m., dance, featuring Finn Hall. For more information, go to [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org) and click left on Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities. To RSVP for the supper, or to send in your stories, e-mail Betsey Norgard at [norgard@winternet.com](mailto:norgard@winternet.com) or call (651) 786-5988. Tickets at the door: \$5 supper (RSVP requested); \$10 for the lecture and \$10 for the dance, or \$15 for both.

**Mar 13** Finn Hall Tapestry Folk Dance Center, Minneapolis. For more information: Ralph Tuttila, [raulit@msn.com](mailto:raulit@msn.com), [www.finnhall.com](http://www.finnhall.com)

**Mar 16** FACA Board Meeting

**Mar 18** FACA Program, (see page 1 for more info).

**Mar 20** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Toinen jalka haudasta* [www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=925](http://www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=925) Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis. More information: <http://www.minnesotafinnish.org/> or (651) 428-3155

**Mar 25** FACA Uutiset deadline

**Mar 26** Sourcing and Corrections. How to source information and correct errors. 9:30 a.m., coordinated by Joan Dwyer and Cathie Reasoner, Finnish Geneal-

ogy Group of Minnesota. Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15. [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org)

**Apr 1–2** Osmo Vänskä, conducts the Minnesota Orchestra, *Nordic Landscapes*. Lovely portraits of three Nordic countries, beginning with Norway’s cherished Edvard Grieg—whose Sigurd Jorsalfar Suite holds all the sweet melancholy and dancing energy of his most famous works. Landscape, from Sweden’s Torbjörn Lundquist, weaves together a tuba and string orchestra with surprising beauty. And no musical tour of the North would be complete without Finland’s Sibelius—whose immensely popular Fifth Symphony closes the concert with a thrill. For more information, [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org)

**Apr 17** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Näkymäton Elina* [www.imdb.com/title/tt0330911/](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0330911/) Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis. More information: <http://www.minnesotafinnish.org/> or (651) 428-3155

**Apr 23** Duane Wiita—topic to be determined. 9:30 a.m., Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15. [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org)

**Apr 30** Festival of Nations Baking Day, White Bear Lake High School kitchen, 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Contact Junelle at (763) 434-5399 or email [SJBL2@msn.com](mailto:SJBL2@msn.com).

*More calendar items on pg. 7*