



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC. March/ Marraskuu 2006

Ten things Finns wouldn't stop to tell you about life in Finland—because these things are so obvious—and what these ten items reveal about life in contemporary Finland when you do ask!

Speaker: Marianne Wargelin

FACA members know Marianne Wargelin as a researcher and lecturer on Finnish America. More technically stated, Marianne studies ethnicity, cultural pluralism, and the survival and change of small cultures within large, dominant cultures, particularly Finland and Finnish America in the context of Europe and the USA. From that basis, she has taught cultural history at Anoka Ramsey Community College, the University of Tampere, and the University of Helsinki. Over the years, Marianne has shared her work with Finnish Americans at Finnish American festivals and in Finnish American communities. She has also co-authored *Women Who Dared: The History of Finnish American Women* as well as published encyclopedia essays and journal articles on Finnish and Finnish American folklore, popular culture, and the high arts.

This month's program will give her an opportunity to share another side of her work. Since leaving her teaching position at Anoka Ramsey Community College, Marianne Wargelin has worked primarily as a consultant with scholars, government officials, cultural institutions, and the general public about Finland and Finnish America. This work has given her rich opportunities to do comparative research between Finland and the USA. In addition, leaving ARCC gave her the freedom to spend long periods in Finland (she averages three months a year) where she taught while working on her long languishing Ph.D. dissertation. She will now (finally) complete the Ph.D. in Cultural History at the University of Tampere.

Being in Finland has given her the time to become more involved in Finland's contemporary day-to-day life. She has been using her eyes and ears as an American to look at what (after all the global cultural sameness) remains different, unique, and quite telling about who and what Finland is. She will talk about such things as high school graduation, funerals, grocery stores, elections, and the Finnish flag. This presentation intends to be both humorous and informative. Come Friday, March 17, 7:30 p.m., to the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave. in St. Paul, prepared to see a side of Finland that the tourist seldom gets to know.

Refreshments will be served.

MARCH FACA PROGRAM

Ten Things About Finns
Marianne Wargelin
Friday, March 17
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

February has been pretty much taken up with the Winter Olympics. Each day's events with results on the Internet then the hours of televised coverage brought me to Italy with the rest of the world. There were some surprises and also disappointments when my favorites didn't win, but that was the reason I watched – just to see how it all played out. The two teams I am most interested in are the United States and Finland as could be expected. But this year it was fun to see many of the events won by athletes who weren't expected to win. There have been many reports on how the sports are becoming much more competitive and how it's a matter of inches and hundredths of seconds that determine winners. When things are that close, the unexpected can happen easily. A lot of people were surprised to see traditional powerhouses in many sports upstaged, but I think that shows how important these games have become to many nations. It's a good (and I might add peaceful) way to get your country's name in the spotlight and a lot of money is spent to get that exposure. Finland won a few medals that I didn't expect such as the snowboarding and downhill skiing, and I was disappointed that Janne Ahonen didn't get an individual ski jumping medal (he did get a team medal).

Ski jumping is actually one of my favorite Winter Olympic sports to watch – probably because I grew up in a town that has produced two Olympic jumpers and is in the midst of a drive to create a training center for all types of skiing. Mount Itasca in Coleraine, Minnesota, has been slowly building a ski jumping facility that has been attracting lots of Junior Olympic and high school athletes to the area to train and compete. It has come a long way from the mom-and-pop downhill and jumping area where I learned to downhill ski. So far the results have been promising. Betsey and I went to the jumping competition they held for the 100th anniversary of the jumping club in town, and it was fun to watch the kids who are involved. I was amazed at the level some of these jumpers have reached at some pretty young ages. Another sport that Mt. Itasca is trying to promote is biathlon. They have recently set up the trails and shooting range, and I'm hoping that some of the hometown kids now involved in the Junior Olympics may someday get to the Olympics. It's always more fun to root for someone you know. We even got a surprise when watching the cross country competition at Mt. Itasca. Ritva Taipale was skiing on the Gustavus Adolphus women's cross country team, so we got our first chance to see her race.

Our Laskiainen was held on Sunday the 26th under some pretty ideal weather. We had about sixty to seventy people there, mostly Suomikoulu families. There was pea soup and pulla for all and lots of visiting time. The snow was still on the north facing slopes by the clubhouse. I didn't do any sliding myself, so I guess my flax crop may be in jeopardy. But it looked like there might be some good crops out there, because the hill was pretty hard packed and kids had long walks to get back up the hill after some fast runs. And who knows—maybe some of the kids skiing and sledding there will be future Olympians...



Finland Society's Seminar on Finnish Language and Culture

Finland Society (*Suomi-Seura ry*) will again arrange its popular three-week Summer Seminar for descendants of Finnish emigrants at Helsinki Christian Institute, July 3–21. Students should be over 18 years of age. The language of instruction is English, so knowledge of Finnish is not required. Finnish will be taught in small groups at three levels: beginners, intermediate and advanced. Lectures give the participants information on various aspects of Finnish society, history, culture and art. The program also includes some social programs, sauna evenings and Finnish films. There is no program on weekends. The Seminar fee is 920 euros, which covers tuition, room (double, triple or quad occupancy) and board, study materials, and tours during the three-week period. (No meals are available during weekends). Please, send application forms to Finland Society by April 28, 2006. You can download the application forms from Finland Society's website. For more information visit www.suomi-seura.fi.



Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Library
Corner of Como and
Carter Ave. in St. Paul
Everyone is welcome.
For more information,
please call Floyd Niskanen
at 763-540-0121.

Finland Recipe of the Month:

Munkit

Finland Donuts



If a trip to Finland isn't in your immediate plans, curl up with some of these donuts and a cup of coffee--typically Finnish!

3 tablespoons butter
3/4 cup milk
1 envelope dry yeast
1/4 cup warm water (110 degrees F)
1 egg
1/2 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cardamom
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 1/2-3 cups flour
vegetable oil for frying

Melt the butter in saucepan, add the milk and heat to lukewarm. Dissolve the yeast in the warm water. In a large bowl lightly beat the egg and sugar, and stir in the cardamom and salt. Add the milk mixture and the yeast and stir well. Beat in half of the flour and gradually stir in enough flour for the dough to hold together. Knead until smooth, but do not add too much flour, the dough should be soft and sticky. Place the dough into a greased bowl, cover with a kitchen towel and let rise in a warm place for 1 1/2-2 hours, or until doubled in bulk.

Punch the dough down, knead and divide into 16 pieces. Roll these into small round buns. Cover with a kitchen towel and let rise in a warm place until double in bulk. Heat the oil in a fryer to 355-360 degrees F. Oil that is too hot will brown them too quickly, before the dough inside is cooked. Fry them two or three at a time in the hot oil, turning once, until golden brown. Drain them on paper towels and roll on a plate filled with sugar before serving.

The Best of Finnish Cooking, Taimi Previdi

Tulkaa erikoiseen matkaan! **Join us on a special trip!**

You are invited this fall to explore Finnish roots and history in Sweden, Finland, and Russian St. Petersburg. Swedish kings and Russian Czars were intimate parts of Finnish life until Finland's independence in 1917. Enjoy delightful touring with comfortable transportation, English-speaking tour guides, fine accommodations and meals, and the pleasant companionship of fellow travelers. The 11-day tour (with optional 3 additional nights in St. Petersburg) is sponsored by Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Fly overnight on September 23 to Stockholm and spend three days exploring the wonders of this elegant capital city, as well as the old university town of Uppsala and the picturesque villages in the Dalarna region. Then sail with Silja Line on the Baltic Sea to explore Turku, the second largest city in Finland, founded in 1157, and the country's capital until 1812. We'll travel through the countryside of Finland through villages, past farms, lakes, and forests to Lahti, home of the critically acclaimed Lahti Symphony Orchestra, directed by the Minnesota Orchestra conductor Osmo Vanska. We will attend a Lahti Symphony performance of the annual Sibelius Festival in beautiful Sibelius Concert Hall, after which Mr. and Mrs. Vanska, who are active members of Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, will join us for dinner. We will also visit Lahti's Sports Center, which has three world-class ski jumps. Then it's on to Helsinki, Finland's capital. We'll visit the neo-classical Lutheran Cathedral; the ornate Orthodox *Uspenski* Cathedral; the modern *Tempeliaukio* Church which is carved out of solid rock; *Ainola*, the Sibelius home; and the Arabia Center of ceramics as well as *Iittala*. The tour ends in Helsinki, but why not take the optional extension to St. Petersburg, Russia? A leisurely train ride will take us there, where we will stay three nights in this former Russian capital city.

For a travel brochure and more information, contact: The Rev. Gordon Braatz at Central Lutheran Church, 612-881-4416; email: gbraatz@centralmpls.org or Janet Tollund, Accolades International Tours for the Arts, 800-747-2255; email: jtollund@gtd.org; www.gtd.org

2006 Festival of Nations Finnish Café

By Junelle Bernard

This year's Festival of Nations will be held May 4-7 at St. Paul's RiverCentre. As we have done for many years, FACA will be staffing the Finnish Café. Our menu this year includes strawberry shortcake, lemon cookies, chocolate torte, herring and flatbread, *pulla*, and *Karjalan piirakkaa* (Karelian pies), along with egg coffee and fruit punch.

Merja Wilenius and I are organizing the café, but we need many volunteers to make it a success. Our baking day will be April 29, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the White Bear High School South Campus kitchen (3551 McKnight Ave. in White Bear Lake.) We will have 2 shifts (8-12 and 11:30-3) and will be making cakes, cookies, chocolate tortes and *piirakkaas*.

The hours for the Festival are:

Students: Thursday, May 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Friday, May 5, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

General Public: Friday, May 5, 4 p.m.-10 p.m.

Saturday, May 6, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Sunday, May 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

We will need workers in the café from 1 ½ hours before it opens until 1 hour after it closes each day, as well as help with set-up on Wednesday, 5/3, and take-down after closing on Sunday. Shifts are approximately four hours in length. We will need people to work out in front selling and others to work in the back preparing items for sale.

We are required to wear ethnic costumes while we work in our booth. We have aprons and scarves available for the women; men are asked to wear dark pants, a bandcollar shirt, suspenders, a vest or sash, and a fisherman-type cap.

We will have a sign-up sheet at the March meeting, but we may have contacted you already if you have worked in the café before. You may call either one of us if you are willing to work a shift or two: Junelle at 763-434-5399 or Merja at 612-599-6359.

Many thanks to Pam and Urho Rahkola for heading up the Finnish Café for the last several years and for their help as we take on this challenge.



Finnish Boat Rebuilt and Increased Scholarship Money for Salolampi

“Participants in summer programs at Salolampi this year will have a new activity available—a new Finnish style boat,” says Salolampi Dean Larry Saukko. Since the early 1980s, the Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji, Minnesota had a boat which was built in Savo, Finland. Since then the boat was used each summer, but it was deteriorating due to improper storage. Last summer, Harold “Olli” Ollila of Helena, Montana offered to build a replica. Olli is a retired engineer and has built boats in the past and

was willing to take the challenge with the help of Alex Comb, a boat builder at Knife River, Minnesota.

On December 7, the completed boat was delivered to Salolampi after a test in Lake Superior. The new boat is made of cedar planks and oak ribs, painted white, and the inside finished with a solution of pine tar, mineral spirits and linseed oil. “We wanted to make it as exactly like the boat that came from Savo as possible,” Olli said. “It’s a beautiful boat,” says Dean Saukko.

Salolampi Language Village uses the very successful and fun “language immersion” method to teach summer villagers Finnish language and culture. This year, the Salolampi Foundation, a non-profit support organization for Salolampi, has announced increases in their scholarships that are automatic to every registered villager. Additional scholarships are available for travel and from donors. Early registration is encouraged to receive the most scholarship assistance.

The summer programs begin with the Family Week from June 12–17 for parents, grandparents and children 1 to 18. Ages 7 to 14 can attend the one-week session from June 19–24. A two-week session is scheduled for ages 11–18 from June 26–July 8, and the final session of the summer is open to ages 8–13 from July 10–22. Villagers who complete a concentrated language credit session from June 26–July 22 earn a high school language credit. An application form can be downloaded from the Salolampi website at www.salolampi.org or an application form and newsletter can be requested from info@salolampi.org. More information is available at www.concordialanguagevillages.org.

Minneapolis–St. Paul International Film Festival

April 21–30, the Minneapolis–St. Paul International Film Festival, the largest film festival in the Midwest, will be held in the Twin Cities area. As usual, a few Finnish films will be shown at various times and at various theaters:

The Dog Nail Clipper, Saturday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 10, 2:45 p.m.; and Sunday, April 17, 5:30 p.m., all at Oak Street Cinema.

Honey Baby (produced by Mika Kaurismäki), Sunday, April 3, 9:50 p.m. at Oak Street Cinema and Tuesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m., Crown Theaters Block E. *Bride of Seventh Heaven*, Sunday, April 3, 3:00 p.m. at Crown Theaters and Wednesday, April 6, 5 p.m. at Oak Street Cinema.

For more information, see mnmfilmarts.org or call 612-647-4430.

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!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
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| <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.

The Swedish-Speaking Finn's Secret to a High Quality of Life

By Juha Suoranta

Senior researcher, Ph.D. Petri Salo, from Åbo Academy University in Finland, is lecturing at the American Swedish Institute, March 29, at 7 p.m. His topic is "The Swedish-Speaking Finn's Secret to a High Quality of Life."

The quality of life among the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland is extremely good, even in a global perspective. They live noticeably longer, more active, and healthier lives than the Finnish-speaking majority. A strong sense of community and participation in different kinds of cultural, social and educational activities through-out their life span has been suggested as the main explanation for both the sense and the actual well-being of the Swedish-speaking Finns.

The lecture is co-sponsored by the Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professorship in Finnish Studies University of Minnesota & the American Swedish Institute. For more details contact Juha Suoranta at suoranta@umn.edu.

Finnpuns

If you open your mouth, I will *suu*.

Do you know where I kengät shoes?

If I were you, aita built a fence.

If you spill some water, you'll vettä floor.

I spilled the milk on maito.

They had tukat their hair.

Give me my karkki and I'll give you some candy.

The egg was as round as the muna bove.

Maa, will you take me to the country.

You shouldn't kissa cat.

Kynäsi your pen?

Hirvi have the moose exhibit.

He's trying to get us aalto do the wave.

You can see the bird if you lintu the left.

Where are the oars? Airot know.

Musta the people here wear black.

Avain it up with a key.

Don't jono how to form a line?

Tonttu elf imitations.

A thousand degrees is tuhat for me.

Is sata hundred dollar bill?

In Memory of John Niemi

John Kenneth Niemi, age 76, of St. Paul and Barnum, Minnesota died Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006, following a 12-year battle with prostate cancer. Born on January 17, 1930 in Rice River Township in Minnesota, John was a 1948 graduate of McGregor High School. He married Deltah Biltonen in 1952, and their first son Kenneth was born in 1953. After leaving the farm and woods for the Iron Range in 1956, the family lived in Ely and then Babbitt. They then moved to North Minneapolis a few years later where John worked at General Mills, where he spent the rest of his career and furthered his education, eventually becoming a millwright and then a refrigeration mechanic. John retired in 1987, and he and Deltah moved to Barnum in 1990. John traveled to Finland and wintered in Texas. In his younger days, he was an accomplished athlete in football, basketball, and baseball. He was known by all as a kind, generous, and gentle man who recognized the best in everyone. John was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar and Senia Niemi; an uncle, Eino Niemi; 3 brothers, Ernest, Jack, and Eino "Ted;" aunts and uncles and cousins in Finland. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Deltah, of St. Paul; 2 sons Kenneth (Andrea) of St. Paul and Kevin (Karen Grikstas) of Cambridge, WI; and one grandson, Nate. To sign the guestbook and leave an online tribute, see <http://www.northlandfuneralhome.com>. Memorials preferred to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Foundation—John Niemi Technical Scholarship Fund, or donor's choice.

Welcome New Member!
Joyce Baumgartner of Champlin
Tervetuloa!

When you're through reading this newsletter, share it with a friend!

Pieniä Paloja

• Sometimes a misfortune has a benefit. The Como Park Ski Chalet was closed to the public due to the lack of snow but it was opened for us and they honored our reservation for our *Laskiainen* potluck in February. We had only reserved the upstairs balcony but since no one else was there, we had the whole building. There was enough snow on the north side for some to enjoy sliding. As usual, the food and conversations were good. Thanks to Floyd Niskanen, we had “real” Finnish coffee. And thanks to all who brought pea soup, bread, and pulla!

• Finland did quite well in the **Winter Olympics** this past month in Turin, Italy, going home with six silver medals and three bronze medals. They took the silver in Ice Hockey, losing to Sweden on the last day of the Olympics. They got a team silver in curling. Tanja Poutiainen of Finland was the first Finn to win any kind of medal in Alpine skiing when she won the silver medal in the Giant Slalom. Finland’s only slope big enough for a World Cup skiing competition is in Levi, Finland, above the Arctic Circle. Janne Ahonen, of ski-jumping fame, failed to win an individual medal at these Olympics, but did win a silver with his team in the K120 (large hill) competition. *Hyvä Suomi!*

FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight issues of this newsletter 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 _____

More Calendar Items

Apr. 29, Sat. Festival of Nations baking day from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the White Bear High School South Campus kitchen (3551 McKnight Ave. in White Bear Lake.) Call Junelle at 763-434-5399 or Merja at 612-599-6359 to volunteer. (See p.)

May 4–7 Festival of Nations at the RiverCentre in St. Paul. Volunteers needed at the exhibit and café. To help out at the café call Junelle at 763-434-5399 or Merja at 612-599-6359. (See p. 4)

May 12–14 Spring Volunteer Work Weekend at Salolampi. Come clean, paint, cut wood, etc. Free lodging and entertainment. For more details call Milo Laitinen at 218-564-4266 or email him at laitinen@wcta.net.

May 14–20 Finnish Spring Adult Week at Salolampi near Bemidji, Minnesota. \$455 per person, \$355 for commuters. Experience Finnish food, sauna, language and culture. Call 800-450-2214.

May 18–20 Vänskä conducts Sibelius’ *Symphony No. 1* and Aho’s *Flute Concerto*. For tickets and times, call 612-371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

June 12–17 *Family Week at Salolampi.*

June 19–24 *Salolampi one-week youth session for ages 7–14.*

June 26–July 8 *Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 11–18.*

June 26–July 22 *Salolampi one-month youth credit session for grades 9–12.*

July 10–22 *Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 8–13.*

See www.salolampi.org for more information and for an application, or call 800-222-4750.

July 3–21 Finland Society’s three-week Summer Seminar for descendants of Finnish emigrants at Helsinki Christian Institute. Finnish language instruction offered, as well as lectures on art, history and culture. Send application forms to Finland Society by April 28, 2006. Download application forms at www.suomi-seura.fi. (See p. 3).

July 14–16 Finn Fling celebration in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Enjoy arts, concerts, dancing, movies, golfing, theater, sports, food, workshops, and lectures. See www.finnishcanadiangrandfestival2006.com

July 26–30 FinnFest USA ‘06 in Astoria, Oregon and Naselle, Washington. See www.finnfest2006.org or call 800-851-FINN for information and registration forms.



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

Mar. 16, Thurs. At 7:30 p.m. Finn Hall and Ameriikan Poijat will play at a St. Urho's Day Concert and Dance at the Northfield Eagles' Club, 304 South Water Street, Northfield, Minnesota. Food and beverages will be available, and St. Urho himself will appear! \$8 admission, \$5 seniors (15 & under free w/adult). The Eagles' Club is handicapped accessible. Hosted by Northfield's Nordic Jam. There will also be a St Urho's Day Parade (weather permitting) departing at 7:15 p.m. from the Contented Cow Pub, 302 Division St. in Northfield. For more details, contact; raulit@msn.com or see www.finnhall.com.

Mar. 17, Fri. FACA Monthly Program featuring Finnish culture expert Marianne Wargelin, 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave. in St. Paul. (See p. 1 for more information.)

Mar. 22, Wed. Deadline for articles and information for the April FACA newsletter. Email articles to Tiina Watts at tiiwatts@usfamily.net and pictures to Beth Jarvis at brjarvis@umn.edu. We need more items of personal interest. If you are a FACA member and have a birth, marriage, death, graduation, or other important event happen in your family,

let us know! Also, if you have interesting Finnish news, jokes, language hints, or know of upcoming cultural events, send us that information, too. If there's room, we'll print it.

Mar. 29, Wed. Senior researcher, Ph.D. Petri Salo, from Åbo Academy University in Finland, will lecture at The American Swedish Institute at 7 p.m. on the topic: "The Swedish-Speaking Finn's Secret to a High Quality of Life." For more details, contact Juha Suoranta at suoranta@umn.edu. (See p. 6)

Mar. 30–Apr. 1 Osmo Vänskä conducts the Minnesota Orchestra with Soile Isokoski as soprano as they perform Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* and two pieces by Strauss. Call 612-371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

Apr. 1, Sat. Pasty and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church, 13030 47th Avenue North, Plymouth.

Apr. 21–30 Minneapolis–St. Paul International Film Festival. For a complete schedule, visit mnfilmarts.org. (See p. 5)

more calendar items on p. 7