



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

May/Toukokuu 2005

Finland's Modern Design— a Thing of the Past?

By *Elina Ruppert*

Is Finnish design stuck in the 20th century? What is this “modern” design that is admired by people of all ages? Is it time to toss those *Festivo* candle holders and make a Frisbee out of your *Arctica* plates— come and ask us!

The team from *FinnStyle*, a Minneapolis based Finnish design store, will share their thoughts about today’s Finnish designs—what’s hot and what’s not—at the May FACA program. They’ll bring you a taste of today’s Finland through a short fashion show and a video. Will you dare to wear your vintage *Marimekko* dress? It might be the dress to wear!

Have you heard of Tapio Wirkkala, the versatile genius of design? His contribution to design includes everything from glass products to the design of banknotes and graphic art. My mother and her mother had all of his *Ultima Thule* crystal and in my mind it belongs on her dinner table, but not on mine. However, this famous design was one of the hot glassware lines in London during the summer of 2004. And London is supposedly cool??

Finnish designer Kaj Franck rethought tableware over 50 years ago. Our homes are full of dishes that we rarely, if ever, use; his idea was to replace them with a few carefully thought-out items. Franck’s designs have unlimited uses. It may be time to present his tableware to a new generation. *Teema* dishes for me? My great aunt used them, but me?

This year *Marimekko* is celebrating Maija Isola, undoubtedly the most productive and influential designer who ever worked for them. Many of the printed textile designs people identify with *Marimekko* are by Maija Isola, including the *Unikko* flower from 1964. This has had a huge revival during the past few years and is now regarded as something of a *Marimekko* trademark. Today I am wearing a jean jacket with her design on it. Will this poppy flower ever die??

Birds have been Professor Oiva Toikka’s “small miracles” for the past 30 years. Toikka’s apparently limitless imagination, combined with a sophisticated knowledge of glass, has made it possible for him and his glassblowers to create small miracles of life from glass. These birds are more than a collection of artifacts, they are a collection of stories. Even I love miracles; they are timeless!

Tonfisk is not just Swedish for “tuna fish” but a strong new Finnish design company that was launched internationally at *Ambiente* in the spring of 2000. *Tonfisk* products were made in a run-down industrial space at Lemuntie (Stinky Road) in Helsinki. The small Finnish design company immediately caused a stir among visitors and media and has since been featured extensively in the international press. *Tonfisk* makes me want to believe...

Come enjoy this exciting presentation by *FinnStyle* on May 20 at 7:30 at the International Institute of St. Paul, and stay afterwards for refreshments and socializing!

FACA PROGRAM

**Finnish Design
FinnStyle Staff
Friday, May 20
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

The month of May marks the end of the FACA calendar of meetings, and also means that the Festival of Nations has just been held. This year was another successful Festival and I'd like to share some highlights with you. First, though, I want to thank all the volunteers who served in the café and exhibit booths, and the Kisarit dancers for all their hard work. Without your efforts FACA would not be able to participate and provide the glimpse of Finnish culture and foods to the thousands who attend the Festival each year. As I write this, the final attendance figures are not in yet but I think they were probably about average for all four days. I know the first two student days were busy and on Sunday the strawberry shortcake sold out in the café. Even the pickled herring ran a little low! Special thanks are in order for Urho and Pam Rahkola for another great job of planning and running the café. That *Karjalan paisti* sure tasted good during a long day at the exhibit booth. I was able to see the Kisarit perform on Friday and I must say you dancers did a great job. Thanks again to Kathy Jackson and Colleen Herberg and the rest of the dancers, and musicians Dennis Halme and Mary Hanf – it adds a special touch to have live music for the performances.

You may have heard that our exhibit booth featuring the Finnish Kantele Tradition won one of the four Awards of Excellence this year – for at least the third year in a row. Four equal awards are given, and this year we shared the honors with the Czechoslovak, Taiwanese, and Turkish booths. I would especially like to thank Theresa and Clyde Lund and their talented family for help with decorating and art work, Joyce Hakala for lending her posters featuring Finnish-American *kantele* players, and Anita Middleton for painting the *Kalevala* backdrop we used from last year. Everything came together well with all my *kanteles* and made a very professional-looking display. I had a good time explaining the traditions even if I did get a bit hoarse by the end of it all. It was surprising to see all the people who were genuinely interested in finding out about the *kantele* and its traditions – and I found a few more *kantele* owners out there who were interested in playing. It's too bad the Festival doesn't allow recorded or live music in the exhibits booth – everyone wanted to hear the instruments played. When I did strum the strings a bit it usually drew in a few more people.

If you weren't able to get to the Festival, we should have a few pictures at the May meeting – see you there!



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

IHRC Conference and Banquet

The Immigration History Research Center will be hosting a conference and banquet marking the retirement of Professor Vecoli. He has headed the IHRC for 38 years. The conference is free, but you must register, and the banquet will be \$30 per person.

The conference topic will be “Immigration History and the University of Minnesota: Where We’ve Been, Where We’re Going,” and it will run May 12–14. Complete information and a registration form can be found at:

<http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/pastfuture/>.

For reservations by phone call Andrea Burns, 612-625-4800. Registration is limited.

The conference banquet will be Saturday, May 14. A preliminary information postcard is at www.ihrc.umn.edu/news/graphics/VecolicardWeb.pdf.

For banquet reservations, call Jenny Dalton, 612-625-5031 or e-mail her at dalt0025@umn.edu. Entertainment includes readings from the archives, “This Is Your Life” slide show, and speakers.

More information on both the conference and dinner is in the April IHRC News Online. Go to <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/news/index.htm> and click on the April issue.

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.

Board Notes

By Luella Zibell



Luella Zibell, Andreas Ostenso, Alan Norgard, Floyd Niskanen

After reviewing the secretary’s and treasurer’s reports at the April 12 meeting, the FACA board had an extended discussion about several items and events. Final details of our participation in the Festival of Nations were reviewed and scheduled.

The Vappu celebration for Saturday, April 30, will be publicized at the FACA meeting. Music and entertainment will fill the afternoon.

Our discussion about the future direction of FACA resulted in our putting together an INTEREST SURVEY which will be available at the April meeting and sent to all on the mailing list. The results of the survey will guide our planning for the future.

New Members

Welcome to new FACA member:

Robert (Bob) Schermerhorn of Minneapolis
Tervetuloa!

Summer Calendar

The Summer Calendar will be coming out in June, loaded with information on concerts, festivals, courses and all kinds of fun activities. Email your event to Tiina Watts at tiiwatts@usfamily.net by May 22 if you want to be included in the calendar. Email pictures to Beth Jarvis at bjarvis@umn.edu.

2005 Festival of Nations Finnish Cafe

By Pamela and Urho Rahkola

We want to extend our thanks, on behalf of FACA, to all of the volunteers that helped make another successful year of the Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations. It really takes a lot of hard work by everyone to make this happen.

Thanks to the many members and friends who volunteered at the baking day. Linda Mehle-School and Kathy Chambless mixed the never-ending batches of cookie dough. Jeanne Maki and Theresa Lund “handled” the Karjalan Paisti. The cake-mixing team of Dixie Luoma, MerryAlice Jones, Jean Kultala and Blossom Gullickson pitched in as replacements for our regular cake-mixer/batter-pourer/pan-greasers, and did a fabulous job. Verdie Niskanen again handled the morning dish washing shift with Bob Nelson taking over the afternoon spot. Ron Wieneri plastic-wrapped all of those “darn” card boards. (How many cookies again? ...36 batches, with 5 dozen per batch, with 1½ dozen wrapped per cardboard...) Dan Salin, Clyde Lund and Ernie Banttari packaged all of the baked goods. Bob Katvala—who could have been home baking rye bread but instead showed up to help— was one of our main cookie ‘smashers’ and all-around handy-guy. (We told you we’d put you to work if you came!) Our cookie- stacker was Aune Ruskanen. Our spice bag wrapper and one of our cookie crew was Jean Torgerson, with help from the remaining cookie bunch: Carol Pesola, Anita Wieneri, Marlene Banttari, Gloria Thorpe, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Bette Ruskanen, Betty Wheelcor, and Karen Luoma-Varichak. A big thank-you to Eira Bridges for once again handling the baking and Delores Salin for mixing some extra bundt cakes for the *Vappu* celebration. Andreas Ostenso helped deliver all of the baked goods to the freezer. Even with making the extra *Vappu* items we were still able to finish in record time.

We also want to thank the many volunteers at the Festival itself. Ernie and Marlene Banttari “trucked”

in and out again much of the Café stuff, plus worked several shifts and provided the lovely flowers for our booth. Thanks to the many who worked two or more shifts: Verdie Niskanen, Wayne Mikkola, Carol and Ray Pesola, Archie Lahti, Bob Nelson, Natalie Tatz, Linda Mehle-School and Kathy Chambless, Dan and Delores Salin, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jane Olson, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Margaret and Veijo Paine, Doris and Richard Harju, Tiina and Leila Watts, Linda Davis, Seija Rahkola and Miki Otis. A special thanks to Merryalice and Bob Jones for helping both with the set-up and shut-down. Merryalice gets a special gold star for having the cleanest refrigerators and stove, according to the appliance check-out crew!

Thank you to all of the other Café volunteers: Mary Oberg-Hanf, Luella Zibell, Edsel and Elma Huotari, Bert and Anita Johnson, Kelly Robinson, Marilyn and Ruth Ervasti, Ron and Anita Wieneri, Curt Jackson, Blossom Gullickson, Jean Torgerson, Carol Backman, Evelyn Eskeli, Anna Olson, Jean, Aili and Risto Kultala, Bette and Aune Ruskanen, Andreas Ostenso, Junelle Bernard, Betty Wheelcor, Floyd Niskanen, Barb Nikula-Owens, and Gwen and Amanda Tatz.

A very special thanks to Eira Bridges (Urho’s sister) who showed up for the weekend to help us through this our 7th and final year of chairing the Café. Plus another big thank you to Merja Wilenius who worked every day again this year and has volunteered to co-chair next year’s Finnish Café along with Junelle Bernard. Running the Café has been a big job, but would have been impossible to accomplish without the help of the many volunteers. Kiitos paljon!

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 _____

Remembering Natalie and Bob Gallagher

By *Maija Maki-Laurila*

When I arrived in the USA and Minnesota on Tapaninpäivä (Boxing Day) 1967, it was snowy and cold, just like it was when I left Finland. I moved to Bailey Hall on St. Paul Campus where I met Finnish agricultural students who attended short courses on campus. In January, on an exceptionally cold evening, I found myself walking to Hillside with some of these students to a meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the Minnesota Historical Society at Natalie and Bob Gallagher's--and the winter never again felt as cold as it did before--I felt from that day on that I was adopted by Natalie and Bob into their large, ever-changing, Finnish student "family."

Both Natalie and Bob were very active in the Finnish community, and Bob's egg coffee at the Festival of Nations was a hit. Natalie traveled to Finland with the Kisarit dancers as an announcer. At Kaustinen she met relatives and went to visit them. The following morning we had a surprise: no Natalie! Finally she showed up just before we were supposed to leave. Finnish hospitality had taken over and even though she had just gone over for a cup of coffee, she HAD to stay overnight.. This was the only time I ever saw her nervously excited, but it did not take long before she saw the humor in it.

In Kuopio we visited the Russian Orthodox Church museum which was supposed to have an English speaking guide for our group. The guide never showed up so I had to try to translate. I do not know orthodox vocabulary in Finnish, still less in English, however, with lots of help from Natalie we got through the tour. Natalie was easy to translate for; she knew how to space the sentences and did not talk like politicians who hardly wanted to pause for translation until they run out of breath.

After moving to Madison in 1979 I saw Natalie and Bob infrequently. They stopped at my place a few times and I visited them on and off when back in the Cities. I always felt welcome and there was lots of laughter when we met.

At the funeral service somebody mentioned how most of the people there seemed to be smiling. I answered: "That was Natalie!" and the person agreed.

Thank you Natalie and Bob, it was a real honor to call you friends.

Finn Grand Fest 2005 Preparations in Full Swing

If you are planning a trip to Marquette, Michigan this summer for Finn Grand Fest 2005, August 10-14, the huge joint Canadian-American Finnish Festival, you had better hurry and reserve your place to sleep. Lodging is disappearing fast, as people from all over Canada and the United States, and even Finland, all make plans to enjoy this exciting event. There will be over 30 performers and choral groups, a Finn Hall variety show, a mini-Salolampi Language Village, 2 plays, worship services, banquets, a gala concert with orchestra, athletic events, tours, the world's largest sauna, a parade, a marketplace, and the blue and white chairs!

You can register online at www.finngrandfest2005.com or call 800-222-FINN or 906-222-FINN to request a registration packet.



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.

***Nisswa-stamman*, Nordic Music Festival in the Pines**

The 6th annual *Nisswa-stamman* Nordic folkmusic festival will be held June 10 and 11 at the Nisswa Pioneer village in Nisswa, Minnesota, (3 hour drive north of Minneapolis). In just 5 years, *Nisswa-stamman* has grown into one of the largest traditional Nordic music festivals in the Upper Midwest. This year over 100 folk musicians are expected, among them are: *Tvo*, exciting young fiddlers Alicia Björnsdotter Abrams and Emma Reid from Sweden; Britt Elise Skram ; and *Vestnes kvartetten*, an outstanding quartet from Norway featuring flat fiddler and hardingfele player, Britt Elise Skram; and *Oj Pojkar*, 11 fiddlers from Rattvik; Midwestern groups and soloists include the *ASI Spelmanslag*, the *Akta Spelman*, *Skal Klubben*, the Twin Cities *Nyckelharpalag*, *Finn Hall*, *Hardingfelelag*, *Skalmusik*, *Skandilous*, *Ole Olsson's Oldtime Orkestra*, the *Stev Sisters*, *Pohjan Akat*, *Nordic Jam*, Becky Weis, Karen Solgard, Arne Salli, Kip Peltoniemi—Finnish raconteur, and many others. Family fun included! Rose Arrowsmith will lead activities at the special children's tent all day long. *Nisswa-stamman* also features lots of Scandinavian food, all day and late-into-the-night dancing opportunities, and an intimate, log "dance barn" with dance instruction and open dancing "shoulder to shoulder," just like they do in Scandinavia!

On Friday, June 10 there will be two fiddling workshops. Fee will be \$20 per segment. Pre-registration required. All tickets are available only at the door of the events (except for fiddling workshops). No advance sales. Saturday buffet tickets will be available on Friday night at the concert and on Saturday inside the grounds of the festival. This activity is made possible in part by a grant provided by the Five Wings Arts Council with funds provided through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant provided by the American Scandinavian Foundation.

For more information, call Paul Wilson, 218-764-2994, pwilson@brainerd.net, or to see a schedule of concerts or to register for the fiddling workshops, see the website at www.nisswastamman.org.

Summer Vegetable Soup-Kesäkeitto

15 tiny new (or 2 or 3 larger) carrots
1 cup sweet new peas
2 cups tiny snap beans (or larger beans cut into 2" pieces)
3 sweet new onions, chopped
2 cups tiniest new potatoes (or larger potatoes, cubed)
1 tablespoon sugar
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons flour
4 cups milk (or for an elegant version, half and half cream)
2 tablespoons butter
chopped parsley

Clean the carrots (cut large carrots into 2- inch sticks and quarter them lengthwise). Scrub the new potatoes to remove the thin peel, but peel the larger ones. Put the carrots, peas, beans, onions and potatoes into a pot. Add boiling water just to cover. Cook for 5 minutes or until the vegetables are almost tender. In another pot, combine the sugar, salt, flour and milk and bring to a boil. Pour into the pot of vegetables and simmer for 10 minutes. Pout into a soup tureen, dot with butter, and garnish with the parsley. Serve hot. Serves 4 to 6.

Finnish Sour Cream Cake-Kermakakku

2 eggs, beaten
2 cups sour cream
2 cups sugar
2-3 drops almond extract
3 cups sifted white flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground cardamom

Combine the eggs, sour cream, sugar and almond extract. Sift the flour and the soda, salt, cinnamon and cardamom. Add gradually to the egg mixture, beating until the batter is smooth and well mixed. Pour into a buttered tube pan that has been dusted with cooky crumbs or granulated sugar. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 hour or until a cake tester comes out clean. Cool for 5 to 10 minutes before turning out of pan. Dust with confectioners sugar and serve sliced very thinly.

Recipes from *The Finnish Cookbook*, Beatrice Ojakangas

Pieniä Paloja

•Finns who travel to the United States and who are issued a new **Finnish passport** after October 26th, but before the new biometric types of passports are available at the beginning of 2006, will have to get a separate US visa before they travel. Under new US regulations, citizens of countries eligible for visa-free travel to the United States, must have a passport containing a microchip with biometric information on the bearer if that passport is issued after the deadline. Visa-free travel to the USA will still be possible with valid passports issued before October 26th. The new biometric passports would contain a memory chip with personal information. In the first stage, it would contain an electronic photograph of the bearer's face. Later, possibly in 2008, it would also contain a fingerprint record. The United States is not expected to agree to a request from the European Commission to extend the deadline. Minister of the Interior Kari Rajamäki (SDP) said that the changes would improve national security. He said it would help fight illegal immigration, trafficking in humans, and organized crime. The change is expected to raise the price of a Finnish passport from the present EUR 40 to EUR 60. The validity of passports will also go down from ten years to five, and children who travel with their parents will also be required to have a passport of their own. Left Alliance MP Jaakko Laakso calculated that this means that during a ten-year period, a family of four would have to spend EUR 480 on passport fees, up from the present EUR 80.

According to an article in the *Helsingin Sanomat* by Minna Pölkki, even first-graders are studying **Russian** in Eastern Finland. Children learn language more quickly at a younger age, and schools are taking advantage of this. In Joensuu, a town in Finland close to the Russian border, one does not need to walk the streets for long before hearing Russian. More and more speakers of Russian are needed in the trade and cultural sectors. The Russian influence in Eastern Finland is increasing – and that can be heard and seen in schools as well. Students in Finnish schools can begin to study their first foreign language already in the first grade, although the most common year is still the third. In the teacher training school in Joensuu, the first foreign language kicks off during the spring semester of the first grade. English is

the most popular language. However, the school has invested in Russian studies, and managed to form a Russian group with 15 students in January. Once a week, for one hour at a time, the class is acquainted with the language of seven S-sounds.

Former FACA president and current Salolampi Foundation president **Evelyn Eskeli** was recently featured in a Star Tribune article. She was part of a novel national program that pairs teenagers and senior citizens for a six-week computer course. The teens, raised with the Internet and e-mail, taught the seniors how to download photos and music, and how to use e-mail and search engines. In return, the seniors shared their life experiences and wisdom with their young tutors. Evelyn learned tips on how to email and how to surf the web. By the end of the hour, she could “Google” like a pro.

Additional Calendar Items:

June 20–25 Salolampi Finnish Language Village youth session for ages 7–14. Enjoy language classes for all levels, cultural presentations, lots of music, great counselors from Finland and the U.S., Finnish crafts, food, games, sports, and lots of great friends. Call 800-222-4750 or see the website at www.salolampi.org for more information or to get an application.

June 27–July 9 Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 11–18. See entry for June 20.

July 11–23 Salolampi two-week youth session for ages 8–13. See entry for June 20.

June 27–July 23 Salolampi four-week credit session for High School students. See entry for June 20.

Aug. 10–14 Finn GrandFest in Marquette, Michigan. *Note: June 1 is the new advanced registration deadline.* Joint Canadian-US Finnish festival. Aug. 10 will be the opening ceremonies and a parade. Aug. 11 will be *tori* (marketplace), programs, concerts, sporting events, and a gala concert featuring the world premiere of the Concerto for Orchestra and Double Bass by Finnish composer Jukka Linkola. Aug. 12 will be more programs, sports, concerts, and of course, a dance. Aug. 13 there will be the world's largest sauna, along with the usual, and a banquet and dance in the evening. Aug. 14 will be morning worship services in Finnish and English, and the closing ceremonies. For more details and updates, or to register online, see www.finngrandfest2005.com. To contact the committee, email info@finngrandfest2005.com.



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

May 20, Fri. May FACA Monthly Program, featuring FinnStyle design team discussing Finnish modern design and what's hot and what's not.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

May 21, Sat. Finnish Genealogy Group, 10:00 a.m., Golden Valley Public Library, 830 Winnetka Ave., Golden valley. It's on Winnetka Ave. approximately 2 blocks north of Hwy. 55 (Olson memorial Highway). For information, contact Joan Dwyer at 612-822-0743 or dwyers@ties2.net.

May 23, Mon. Copy deadline for information for the FACA Summer Calendar edition of the FACA Uutiset. Anyone can send in summer events for our calendar, as long as it has some relationship to Finns, Finland or a FACA member. For newsletter committee contact information, see page 2.

June 10 –11 Nisswa-stamman Nordic Music Festival in Nisswa, Minnesota. See groups from Scandinavia and Minnesota playing Scandinavian and Finnish music. For more information: Paul Wilson, 218-764-2994, pwilson@brainerd.net, or to see a schedule of concerts or to register for the

fiddling workshops, see the website at www.nisswastamman.org.

June 11, Sat. Finnish-American Summer Festival, Timber Hall, Embarrass, MN. Ethnic music, crafters, demonstrators, boot throwing, children's activities, storyteller, homestead tour. Admission is a donation. Embarrass will also be celebrating its centennial at this time, from June 10–12, also at the Timber Hall. More info contact 218-984-2552 or awj@cpinternet.com

June 13–18 Finnish Family Week will be held at Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Register early for this popular week. This week is designed to introduce villagers ages 4–10 and their parents and/or grandparents to the village. Older brothers and sisters are also welcome. Families participate in all Salolampi summer activities: learning Finnish language and culture through language groups, stories, games, crafts, meals and hikes. Some activities are offered just for children, some just for adults, and some for everyone. Call 800-450-2214 for details and registration forms, or see www.salolampi.org.
More calendar items on page 7.