



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

May/Toukokuu 2009

Petrell Hall

JoAnn M. Hanson, Ph.D.

Our May program features JoAnn M. Hanson, an adult educator and oral historian of second generation Finnish-Americans in the communities of Brimson and Toimi, Minnesota. JoAnn's first oral history, entitled "Children of the Finnish Homesteads" documented growing up on an immigrant homestead in the early 1900's in northeastern Minnesota, and culminated in a museum exhibit and accompanying video, co-produced by the Iron Range Research Center and the St. Louis County Historical Society.



*Hirsi Haali —The Old Log Hall,
Petrell Hall, Brimson, Minnesota*

JoAnn's second oral history entitled, "When I Wore a Tulip and You Wore a Red Red Rose," an oral history of the Toimi School, 1914–1942 documented life attending a two-room school in a Finnish immigrant community. A permanent exhibit, housed in the Toimi School building, was produced from the oral history.

Her latest history project is researching the history of Petrell Hall, the "old log hall" in Brimson, Minnesota, that continues to be a community center and meeting place for local residents. In her capacity as Co-Chair of the Petrell Hall Centennial Committee, she is actively working with a small group of dedicated volunteers to present public programs and fundraising events to raise money for the continued preservation of Petrell Hall and its 100th anniversary celebration in 2012.

MAY FACCA PROGRAM

JoAnn M. Hanson

Petrell Hall

Friday, May 15

7:30 p.m.

International Institute

1694 Como Ave., St. Paul

If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin

at 612-374-2718

For our program, JoAnn will share historical photographs of the old log hall, information about the Edwin and Olga Petrell family, the Finnish immigrants who joined together to build the hall, early services activities in the Brimson community, along with photographs of current community events and activities held there in preparation for the centennial events.

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President's Message

By Kaarina Kotkavuori



I have enjoyed being president this year. Here we are coming up to the last program until the fall. Our regular May program will include our annual meeting. The annual meeting also includes the election of new board members. However, this year, no one has volunteered to join the board. We need one new board member. Ruth Wilkman has completed her term. The bylaws state we must have six board members for three-year terms. Each year one or two people will complete their three years. This year one new person is needed and next year two people will be needed. There should be one new person every year. New people bring fresh ideas. The work is not difficult when we have enough participation. The board meetings are held once a month from 7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. at my house (centrally located in St. Paul) and refreshments are served. We sit and drink coffee while we plan our programs and discuss the events coming up which interest the Finnish community. It is really the place to get information first. Please volunteer to be on the board in this coming year.

Plans are going well for our participation in the Hjemkomst Festival from June 26–28. We have 10 people who will be volunteering in the café. As volunteers, we will receive accommodations and free entry. How many hours we will need to work will be decided by how many volunteers we have. Most volunteers will be there for all three days and a couple of people will be coming for two days. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer. The Kisarit Folk Dance group and Finn Hall will be performing. Also, Ernie and Marlene Banttari will be selling Ernie's beautiful woodwork. I think it is going to be a lot of fun.

I hope that everyone who is going on the FinnFest USA cruise will have a really wonderful time. The programs, *tori*, music and scenery will be great. When you return, please share your stories and photos with us.

The Finnish Culture through Movies group has one more presentation this spring at Christ Church Lutheran at 6:00 p.m., Sunday, May 17. "Pelican Man" is great for children and adults alike. I saw the trailer and am looking forward to seeing the film. The movie is free and everyone is invited. Please come and join us.

Christ Church Lutheran, designed by Eero Saarinen, is planning a special event on Sunday, September 27, 2009, please save the date. More information will be available at a later date.

I would like to extend a thank you to Mary Belanger, editor, and Beth Jarvis, graphic design, for their wonderful work on our newsletter. They receive, write articles and put together a very informative and attractive newsletter. Each issue is proofed by Gil Kinnunen, Joan Dwyer and Urho Rahkola, so that people like me will have our errors corrected before the final print. Pam and Urho Rahkola keep our address list up-to-date and mail the newsletters. Thank you all for your time and effort.

President's Message continued on next page.

President's Message, continued

I also thank the hostesses for offering refreshments at our programs. Each one has set an attractive table and offered us very tasty food. It is always a pleasure to enjoy the treats while we visit at the end of each program.

It has also been a pleasure to have so many people come to our programs. The speakers have been interesting and it has been great listening to what our members have to contribute to each presentation. We continue to learn more by the questions that are asked and the comments that are shared.

Please come to the next program and listen to another interesting presentation, drink some coffee, enjoy the refreshments, talk with old friends and perhaps make some new friends. I look forward to seeing you.

Tervetuola!



Junelle Bernard covers last minute details for Festival of Nations.

Uutiset Summer Deadline

The next Uutiset is our summer calendar issue. It will be mailed out in early June, complete with information on concerts, festivals, classes and all kinds of wonderful summer activities. To include your event, send your information, copy and/or photos to Mary Belanger, at mary.belanger@dctc.edu no later than May 22. We will begin our fall and winter issues starting in September. The deadline for that issue is August 21.

Board Notes

By Stella Arola



L-R Stella Arola, Jeanne Swope, Andreas Ostenso, Ruth Wilkman, Kaarina Kotkavuori, and Jane Olson

The board met at the home of President Kaarina Kotkavuori on April 14th. Treasurer Andreas Ostenso gave his financial report and Secretary Stella Arola provided the minutes of the March board meeting. Both were approved.

We will have copies of a list of address and phone numbers of FACA members available at the FACA programs for one dollar.

The Festival of Nations was discussed. Baking day is scheduled for Saturday, April 25th, at White Bear Lake High School. Volunteers have been obtained for both the baking day and for the Finnish café at the Festival.

Additional volunteers are being sought to work in the Finnish café at the *Hjemkomst* festival in Moorhead the last weekend of June; if interested, they can contact Kaarina.

Vice President Jeanne Swope reported that JoAnn Hanson will present the May FACA program; she will discuss the history and the preservation of Petrell Hall. Various other possibilities for future programs were discussed.

The next board meeting will be at Kaarina Kotkavuori's home on May 12th.

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

April Program—Finnish Literature Today

By Jeanne Swope



Nina Tikkanen, a graduate student at the University of Jyväskylä who is spending this year at the University of Minnesota as the Finnish Language and Culture Teaching Assistant, spoke to us at our April program. She is sponsored by CIMO/Finnish Ministry of Educa-

tion and the Finnish Fulbright Commission. Nina is a student specializing in poetry, and has particularly enjoying learning about American rap music this year!

Finnish language writing began in the 1835 with the *Kalevala*. During the period from 1850–1860, publication of works in Finnish was restricted to religion and economics. After restrictions eased, Alexis Kivi's *Seven Brothers* was published in 1870. Literature began to blossom in the early twentieth century, with writers such as Minna Canth.

After Finnish Independence in 1917, the National Romanticism movement prospered. Many leaders were Finnish Swedes (*suomenruotsalaiset*), especially the “torch bearers”: (*tulenkantajat*), who were influenced by other European writers of the 1920s.

After the Winter and Continuation Wars, a new wave of fiction writers produced prose in a realistic style, with rural Finland often the setting. Väinö Linna's *Unknown Soldier*, 1954, was the first famous book about the wars.

Could some recent or current books be potential classics? Juhani Niemi, a professor at Tampere University, sets these criteria for classics:

- Classics sell for decades, even centuries; new editions continue to be issued.
- Classics can be and are read outside the original language, culture, and country.
- A classic has a unique quality; it is new and creates new ways for other writers/works to follow.

Ms. Tikkanen talked about current popular writers in Finland, perhaps future classics, some translated to English. Names of writers mentioned, many of them Finlandia Award winners, are: Laila Hirvisaari (Hietamies); Anna-Leena Härkönen; Leena Lehtolainen; Sofi Oksanen; Pirkko Saisio; Johanna Sinisalo; and Maarit Verronen, Bo Carpelan; Kari Hotakainen; Juha Itkonen; Arto Paasilinna; Hannu Raittila; Ilkka Remes; Jarkko Sipilä; and Kjell Westö. Ms. Tikkanen singled out Anna-Leena Härkönen, Sofi Oksanen, Bo Carpelan and Kjell Westö as her particular favorite writers.

Finns read many books translated from other languages. Of books published in Finland, 15-25% are translated works, of which 2/3 come from English, 10-15% from other Scandinavian languages (100 of these from Swedish).

At the end of her presentation Nina presented FACA with a book about Viitasaari, her hometown.

News flash: Ice Cold Crime will begin publishing Finnish translations here, beginning with *Against the Wall* by Jarkko Sipilä, older brother of publisher Jouko Sipilä. A Minnesotan, Peter Leppä is producing the translation.

Listed below are some websites to help you find more about current Finnish writers:

<http://kirjailijat.kirjastot.fi/en-GB/>

<http://www.booksfromfinland.fi/>

http://finland.fi/Arts_Entertainment/



Merryalice Jones serves juice at the March program.

Celebrate Mid-Summer at Palmquist Farm

Palmquist Farm, will be hosting a Finnish Mid-summer Celebration, June 19-21. The celebration includes:

- Two nights lodging (cozy cabins with fireplaces)
- Finnish baking demonstration by owner Helen Palmquist
- Presentation by owner Jim Palmquist about The Farm's Finnish history (you are encouraged to bring Finnish family pictures & stories to share.)
- Hay ride to view The Farm's nature, exotic deer & buffalo ending at local winery for wine tasting
- Traditional Finnish Meals
- Use of our wood-burning sauna
- Knox Creek Heritage Scandinavian Dinner (five miles from The Farm). Knox Creek Heritage Dinner includes: traditional Scandinavian food, Mid-summer decorations, open exhibits, music and May pole.

The Knox Creek Heritage Center, an affiliate of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, is composed of five buildings (a turn-of-the-century farmstead) representing several ethnic groups in southeastern Price County: the main farm house, circa 1900, a summer kitchen building, the Keto House (depicts a typical logging camp from the 1800's, complete with kitchen and bunkroom), circa 1900, Spirit Baptist Church, circa 1890, the Waahto Sauna built in the early 1900s, moved to the site and restored, and a pole shed. All the buildings on the site are used to display artifacts, documents, photographs, and other memorabilia that represent the cultural, ethnic, and historical aspect of past eras.

Please join us for this unique weekend! If you have any questions, please call (800)519-2558 or e-mail palmquistfarm@centurytel.net

Welcome New Members!

Dale Vertanen of Circle Pines, MN

Tervetuloa!

Get the FACA newsletter electronically! The *Utiset* e-newsletter is fast, convenient, and costs FACA less to produce and distribute. E-mail Andreas Ostenso at tostenso@yahoo.com with questions.

Have Sauna Stories??



Writer Michael Nordskog and photographer Aaron Hautala (l to r) are completing work on a book about saunas in the Lake Superior region to be published by the University of Minnesota Press in late 2010. They recently created this inviting hole in a northern Minnesota lake as the centerpiece of a shot depicting sauna enthusiasts in late winter. Cutting this hole through 30+ inches of ice was as tricky as it sounds, but they were rewarded with a bracing plunge after capturing several brave participants in action. If you have any anecdotes to share, contact them at saunabook@gmail.com

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 _____

10th Annual Nisswa-stämman Nordic Folk music Festival



*Esko Järvelä, Tuomas Logrén and Sara Puljula
A trio from Finland will be performing at the 10th Annual
Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian/Nordic Folk music Festival*

The tenth annual Nisswa-stämman Scandinavian/
Nordic Folk music Festival will take place on June 12
and 13, 2009. This year's event features 150 folk
musicians performing on 3 stages, day-long dancing
opportunities on two dance floors, dance instruction,
a cultural children's activity/performance tent, and
great Scandinavian food...all under the shade of the
majestic Norway pines of the Nisswa Pioneer Village
in Nisswa, Minnesota. This being the **tenth anniversary**
year of the festival, a very special line up of
award winning musicians from Scandinavia/Norden

has been arranged. They include: **Esko Järvelä, Tuomas Logrén and Sara Puljula**, Finland, trio on fiddle, guitar and bass; Cajsa Ekstav, Bosse Larsson, Örjan Englund & Tore Bolstad, Sweden and Norway, quartet of fiddle, hardanger fiddle, piano accordion and *nyckelharpa*; Sula, Denmark, trio on fiddle, piano accordion, guitar; Audun Eken Trio, Norway, button accordion, piano accordion, fiddle. Minnesota groups and individuals appearing include Saana, Kip Peltoniemi, Arne Salli, Ralph Tuttila, *Skålmusik*, the American Swedish Institute *Spelmanslag*, and about a zillion others!

Fifteen special workshops are available on Friday June 12, including fiddling workshops with acclaimed fiddlers: Finnish fiddler Esko Järvelä, Swedish fiddler, Bosse Larsson, Danish fiddler Kirstine Sand, Norwegian *hardingfele* player Tore Bolstad; a guitar workshop with Tuomas Logrén of the group, Frigg, a *Nyckelharpa* and Swedish song workshop with Cajsa Ekstav, button accordion workshop with Audun Eken, and Valdres springar dancing with Tore Bolstad.. and many more...check the workshop page at: <http://www.nisswastamman.org/stamma/workshops09.html>

For more information: Paul Wilson, (218) 764-2994
pwilson@brainerd.net, www.nisswastamman.org/

Basic Nisswa-stämman 2009 schedule:

June 12:

10 a.m.–3 p.m. Scandinavian/Nordic fiddling and dancing workshops, Nisswa area, open to public. There is a fee involved.

7 p.m. Gala Opening Sampler concert, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa, \$15/person. All tickets available only at the door. Sales start at 6 p.m.

9:30 p.m. Old time Dance, Nisswa American Legion

June 13:

10 a.m.–5 p.m. Nisswa-stämman Festival (Nisswa Pioneer Village) \$10 adults/ \$1 children (15 and under). All tickets available only at the gate.

4:30 p.m.–7:30 p.m. Smorgasbord (Nisswa Community Center) \$15 Tickets available on Friday night and Saturday at the events.

7 p.m.–12 a.m. Old time dance, Nisswa American Legion

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.

Pieniä Paloja

- The April program was hosted by Dan and Delores Salin, Bob and MerryAlice Jones and Kathy Jackson.
- **Viktor “Viki” Klimentko**, recently flew to Pyongyang, the capital of communist North Korea to perform at a festival marking the birthday of Leader Kim Il-Sung. Klimentko will sing Sibelius’s Finlandia and the Toivo Kärki song Aurinko laskee länteen (“The Sun Sets in the West”), The event will be shown on North Korean television.
- **Google** has started a project to photograph all main urban streets in Finland. The images are being taken by cameras mounted on moving vehicles, and will be placed on the Internet, to be viewed via computer or mobile telephone. The process is raising some privacy concerns in Finland.
- Finnish music director **Esa-Pekka Salonen** is leaving the Los Angeles Philharmonic to devote more time to his composing. He was with the Philharmonic for 17 years.
- It has been said, every Finnish person consumes an average of five cups of coffee per day, translating to 25 million daily cups of coffee nationwide. Maybe it’s a good thing that there is a new **Paulig coffee** roasting plant going up in Helsinki’s Vuosaari. The new eco-friendly building will use the “dandruff” or coffee outer shells that come loose from the beans, for energy.
- When **Finland’s President Halonen** met President Obama at the recent Prague summit, she invited Obama to come for a visit. The US President asked Halonen if it was best to visit Finland in the summer or winter. He said that he had heard that the Finnish winter is very cold. Halonen advised Obama to come in the summer.
- Finland is considering sending a naval vessel to the coastal waters off Somalia, as part of a mission aimed primarily at securing the safety of food aid deliveries against attacks by pirates. This would be the first time that Finland has taken part in an international crisis management operation at sea.
- **Helsingin Sanomat**, continues to be the largest newspaper by circulation, in Finland, even though its readership declined by almost 2 % in 2008.
- The **A21 Cocktail Lounge** in Helsinki’s Punavuori district has been voted as the best bar in the world in an Internet poll organized by a website called *World’s Best Bars*.

More Calendar Items *(from page 8)*

June 13 Finnish American Summer Festival. Great entertainment planned—the Jarvenpaa Singers, Dave Tak and the Finnbillies, and May Praacher, Weather Booth with Roland Fowler Finnish-American dinner, museum and gift shop open, ethnic and local merchandise and food, boot throwing contest, children’s activities, demonstrators, tour of historical farmsteads. Fun events for all. Timber Hall, Hwy 21, in Embarrass, Mn. Call (218) 984-3012, 984-3503 or e-mail at sisuheritage@yahoo.com.

June 19–21 Palmquist Farm, Finnish Mid-summer Celebration. Please join us for this unique weekend! If you have any questions, please call (800)519-2558 or e-mail palmquistfarm@centurytel.net (More information page 5.)

June 26–28 32nd Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival featuring “Nordic Spirit Rocks” and Finnish Expo 2009 at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Experience traditional and contemporary music, Scandinavian humorists, a Nordic marketplace, ethnic foods, genealogy resources, and demonstrations of Nordic arts and traditions. Exhibits about the replica Viking ship, Hjemkomst, and Hopperstad Stave Church as well as the 1870s Swedish Bergquist Pioneer Cabin are also included. Festival Pass buttons, good for 3 days of fun, available at www.FargoStuff.com. Details at (218) 299-5452 or www.ScandinavianHjemkomstFestival.org

Looking ahead! Mark the dates!

Sept. 18 September FACA program.

Sept 27 Christ Church Lutheran National Historic Landmark. celebration More information at a later date. www.christchurchluth.org/building/friends.html

Finn Grand Fest 2010 is coming to Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario July 28–August 1, 2010. <http://finngrandfest2010.com/>

Salolampi Schedule 2009

Work Weekend May 8–10

Adult Week May 10–16

SOIVA Camp June 15–22

Family Week June 22–27

Youth Exploration July 13–18

Youth Exploration July 20–25

Youth Immersion June 29–July 11

Youth Immersion July 13– July 25

High School Credit June 29 –July 25

Adult Week September 12–18

For more information: www.salolampi.org



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 15 FACA Program, 7:30 p.m. International Institute. (See page 1.)

May 16 Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. 9:30 a.m. meeting, Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 County Rd 15. Election of officers, brainstorming about brick walls, planning summer research trips. More information: FGGMN website or ds1940@aol.com

May 17 Finnish Culture Through Movies group "Pelican Man" <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pelikaanimies>. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis. More information at the Culture Through Movies webpage or (651) 428-3155.

May 17-24 FinnFest USA 2009 Cruise to Alaska!

May 22 Copy deadline for the Summer Issue of FACA Uutiset. Need activities from June-Sept. to mary.belanger@dctc.edu

May 28-30 The Tchaikovsky Sessions: A Live Recording Experience. Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 2, Minnesota Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä, conductor, Stephen Hough, piano. MacArthur "genius" Award-winner Stephen Hough is our guest for two weeks of piano magic. Be a part of history as the

Orchestra and one of the world's most in-demand solo artists record the sweeping, romantic concertos of Tchaikovsky live in concert. Program also holds the riveting Symphony No. 10 by Finland's Kalevi Aho. www.orchestrahall.org for more information.

May 29 Finn Hall 6:30-8:45 p.m. Join the party at Kramarczuks - Finn Hall's "Northeast home". Bring the children; this is a family-friendly place. 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Mpls (612-379-3018). Great food, beer and wine available, and of course dance space! \$3 cover charge. Contact Ralph Tuttila for more information at raulit@msn.com.

June 12-13 Nisswa-stämman 10 at the Nisswa Pioneer village in Nisswa, Minnesota. Nisswa-stämman has grown into one of the largest traditional Nordic music festivals in the upper midwest. This year 150 folk musicians are expected, among them Esko Järvelä, Tuomas Logrén and Sara Puljula of Finland, Kip Peltoniemi, Ralph Tuttila, Arne Salli. Contact: Paul Wilson (218) 764-2994, pwilson@brainerd.net www.nisswastamman.org (See page 6 for more information.)

More calendar items on page 7