



# Utiset

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

May/Toukokuu 2010



### Finnish Folk Music

Sara Pajunen

For our final program of the season, we will have music!

Sara Pajunen will talk about history and new trends in Finnish *pelimanni* music, including important fiddlers and styles of tunes. Listen to the changing sounds of Finnish fiddle music through sound samples—canned and live!

Sara Pajunen grew up in northern Minnesota, where she performed and traveled with the Singing Strings, playing Finnish folk music, American fiddle tunes, and classical repertoire. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Minnesota and completed a solo studies degree at the Helsinki Conservatory in 2008. She performs and teaches private lessons in the Twin Cities. And—good news! This year, 2010, she has just received a Finlandia Foundation grant to bring new Finnish folk music to the area via education and performance.

#### MAY FACAA PROGRAM

**Finnish Folk Music**

**Friday, May 21**

**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 Kaarina Kotkavuori*

I can hardly believe that our year is ending. It has been a good year. Thank you to all who have been volunteering and participating.



Thanks to the people who spent a lot of time planning for the Festival. Junelle Bernard planned and organized the Baking Day and Cafe. (She orders the reindeer sausage from Alaska!) Kara Middleton worked on the exhibit booth, found volunteers and called on Theresa Lund and Mary Hanf to create the exhibit booth. Thank you very much for your time and creative talents! We had many volunteers at the festival.

When Martha Lindgren, a founding member of FACA, passed away in the fall of 2008, we received an abundance of the beautiful straw ornaments that she made. Martha used to sell her ornaments at *Pikkujoulu*, FinnFests around the country, and art festivals. At our May program, Jane Olson, our hospitality coordinator, will distribute Martha's ornaments to our members.

The American Swedish Institute will be presenting *My Paradise—100 years of Finnish Architects' Summer Homes*, beginning in June. Featuring the summer homes of architects in Finland and David Salmela, a Finnish-American architect here in Minnesota. See calendar on page 5 for details.

On Saturday, June 19, the Institute will celebrate the Midsommar Festival, featuring Finland. (All the details are on page 5.) FACA will have a table with our banner and the Kalevala murals on display. It's a great opportunity to tell people about FACA. We will also make beads as we did at the Festival of Nations. I will be at our table all day and would appreciate it if some of our members would join me. Let me know if you can. Please come to this celebration!

We will hold our annual business meeting before our program in May. We will discuss our financial standing, future plans and elect the new board. Thanks to Kathy Jackson, Dan Salin, Urho Rahkola and Jeanne Swope for being on the calling committee seeking board members. If you would like to be on the board, please call me. We need to elect new three people to the board.

I have been in FACA for 27 years. I have enjoyed serving as president. I have learned a lot about Finnish culture and activities. Best of all, being the president has helped me to get to know our members. Thank you for electing me to serve on the board four years ago. I wish to thank the board members for their help over the last four years.

Our summer edition of our newsletter will be listing a good many events. I hope to attend many.

We have an excellent program planned for our last program of the year in May. Please join us for the program and coffee.

## Baking Day 2010

By Junelle Bernard

April 24 was cool and rainy outside but that didn't dampen the spirits of the 27 of us who gathered at White Bear Lake High School kitchen to prepare baked goods for the Festival of Nations. We started around 8:00 in the morning, and by 2:30 had baked 64 cakes, 159 dozen cookies and 192 *piirakka* to sell at the Finnish Café, April 29–May 2. Most of the bakers were veterans of previous baking days, but we had three “first-timers,” Bruce Engebretson, Marietta Merrick, and Bob Sund. Thank you to them for coming along to help out with the following “regulars:” Stu Bernard, Edie Boos, Jenny Borovsky, Kathy Chambless, Kathy Jackson, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Dixie Luoma, Kara Middleton, Jane Olson, Andreas Ostenso; Pam, Seija, and Urho Rahkola; Dan and Delores Salin, Joan Selover, Marge Stewart, Ruthann Swanson, Jeanne Swope, Gloria Thorpe, George Valo, Merja Wilenius, and Luella Zibell. *Kiitos paljon* to every one of you!

## Yhteiskulkujärjestelmä FinnFestiin!

By Andreas Ostenso

A number of people have expressed interest in carpooling to FinnFest. Given that the drive to Sault St. Marie is a good nine hours long, this seems a sensible proposition. While FACA is not running a shuttle this year, the May program would be a great time to start working out arrangements. Please e-mail me at [tostenso@yahoo.com](mailto:tostenso@yahoo.com) if you are interested in carpooling. Include your preferred departure and return dates as well as whether or not you would be interested in driving. Those able to drive should also include how many passengers you would be able to take. I will compile the information for the May program so that people can start working out the logistics.

## Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



L-R Stella Arola, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jeanne Swope, Edith Boos, Kara Middleton, Andrea Ostenso, Jane Olson

The FACA board met at Kaarina Kotkavuori's home. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were presented. We voted to round up our *Salolampi* contribution to \$725.

We discussed serving in some role as a sponsor for two programs that Erkki Huovinen, University of Minnesota Visiting Professor in Music, is planning for next fall. Professor Huovinen is also going to present a FACA program.

Kaarina reported on upcoming Finnish events around the Twin Cities. We discussed having a program about *Salolampi* and what campers experience who receive our scholarship(s).

Planning is going forward for the Festival of Nations. Junelle Bernard has Baking Day and the café well organized. Kara Middleton is working on finding volunteers for the booth; Theresa Lund and Mary Hanff are creating this *Kalevala* display booth.

The May meeting will be our annual meeting and election, with a musical program from fiddler Sara Pajunen.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. Call Kaarina Kotkavuori for the location.

### 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

## Baking Day

By Urho Rahkola



Dixie Luoma, RuthAnn Rintala Swanson, and Junelle Bernard work on the *piirakka* dough.



Dan Salin packs up some cookies.

## Finnish Café at the Festival of Nations

By Junelle Bernard

The Finnish Café was a success again this year. Being part of the global community was fun, and earning some money to use for Salolampi scholarships made the hard work worthwhile. But it would not have been possible without the help of many people. *Kiitos paljon* to: Stu and Laura Bernard, Merja Wilenius, Jane Olson, Kathy Chambless, Dixie Luoma, Sharon Filiatrault, Ruthann Swanson, Ray and Carol Pesola, Anita and Bert Johnson, Judy Mikkola, Veijo and Margaret Paine, Betty Wheelecior, Theresa and Clyde Lund, Richard and Cassie Lund, Ramona Larson, Kathy Jackson, Marlene Banttari, Gil and Dawn Kinnunen, Edie Boos, Bernice and Anna Kuure, Linda Davis, Urho and Pam Rahkola, Kaisa Taipale and Andreas Ostenso. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

## Festival of Nations

By Mary Belander



Merja Wilenius, Judy Mikkola and Laura Bernard worked in the cafe.



Andreas Ostenso, Anita Johnson, Gloria Thorpe, and Bert Johnson staff the *Kalevala* booth.



Exhibit volunteers Linda Anderson, Kara Middleton, Jeanne Swope, and Edie Boos pause for a photo.

## Cultural Exhibit Receives Award for Excellence

By Kara Middleton

A sincere thanks goes to all of the volunteers who helped to make the Finnish Cultural Exhibit at the Festival of Nations a success. Due to the hard work and creative talents of Mary Hanf and Theresa and Clyde Lund, the Finnish exhibit illustrated the *Kalevala* so well that it earned an award for excellence in quality and presentation. The judges' selection of the Finnish exhibit confirms the outstanding efforts of these three.

Equally appreciated are the contributions of 25 volunteers who assisted in creating or staffing the exhibit: Linda Anderson, Ernie Banttari, Edie Boos, Ruth Erkila, Mary Hanf, Richard Harju, Elsa Hoover, Kathy Jackson, Anita Johnson, Bert Johnson, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Jim Kultala, Aili Kultala, Wayne Mikkola, Al Norgard, Betsey Norgard, Keith Olson, Andreas Ostenson, Dan Salin, Harlan Stoehr, Jeanne Swope, Bob Sund, Gloria Thorpe, Jean Torgerson, George Valo, and Helen Ylonen. *Kiitos!*

## Join Us on Facebook!

By Beth Jarvis

Now, you can follow FACA on Facebook and even post your events! Just search for Finnish American Cultural Activities and you'll find our "group" page. (We also have a Facebook page, so watch for the group listing and use that.) I've posted the next meeting notice as a coming event. Feel free to post your Finnish events!

### 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	_____
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## ASI Midsommar Fest Focuses on Finland

**June 11** The opening of *My Paradise* at the American Swedish Institute (ASI) kicks off a summer of Finnish sounds, flavors, and inspiration! Meet *My Paradise* exhibit curators Jari and Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen, along with featured architect David Salmela. The opening reception will begin at 6 p.m., at which time the public is invited to the American Swedish Institute to browse the exhibit and enjoy complimentary refreshments and a cash bar. At 7:30 p.m., Jari and Sirkkaliisa Jetsonen will present their authoritative perspective on Finnish architecture in an illustrated presentation in the ASI auditorium. This event is free and open to the public. Reservations are recommended, as space may be limited. Please call (612) 871-4907 to reserve your place.

**June 18** Celebrate the arrival of summer the Nordic way with music, food and festivity at the American Swedish Institute, Midsommar Eve Music, an outdoor concert featuring three local Nordic musicians, including Finn Hall, fiddler Daniel Dahlin, and vocalist Connie Evingson. Starting at 6:00 p.m. Entrance to the event is \$10 per person, \$5 ages 12 and under. Registration is preferred (and is nonrefundable); please call (612) 871-4907.

**June 19** Midsommar Festival, American Swedish Institute, featuring Finland. A party will be held in the museum and outside a tent with food, music vendor and activities. This is a free family event.

**June 23** Dan Karvonen will help answer the question "What's so fascinating about Finnish?" 7:00 p.m. Free for American Swedish Institute members, and included with museum admission for non-members.

**July 14** The Invisible Element of Place: David Salmela, Architect at 7 p.m., David Salmela and University of Minnesota Dean Thomas Fisher will engage in a conversation about the architecture in Fisher's new book on Salmela's work. Admission to this presentation is \$5 per person. Please call (612) 871-4907 to make a reservation.

The American Swedish Institute is located at 600 Park Avenue S., Minneapolis.  
[www.americanswedishinst.org](http://www.americanswedishinst.org)

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Get FACA *Uutiset* delivered via e-mail! It's fast, convenient and reduces printing and postage costs. E-mail: [rahkola.urho@comcast.net](mailto:rahkola.urho@comcast.net) to convert your subscription.

## April Program Recap

By Jeanne Swope

In April, Greg Isola told us about the Finnish passengers on the RMS Titanic. He provided a slide show with many photos of the ship and the Finnish passengers, and a gripping narrative that took us to the fateful days in April 1912 when the great ship set out. (It was so gripping that the servers forgot to set out coffee, and had to hurry when the talk ended!)

On the Titanic as everywhere in society in 1912, class distinctions were the order of the day. Third class was the immigrant level (“steerage”) down by the ship’s mechanicals. But because this was the Titanic, everything was nicer—third class was like second class on most boats. Many of the Finnish passengers were in third class; others, like the Lahtinens of Cokato, travelled in second class.

Because the launch of the great new ship was extremely important, it went forward despite a coal strike in England. Coal was diverted from other ships to make sure the Titanic launched on time. Many passengers and immigrants rebooked onto the Titanic not only for the excitement and glamour, but also because it was one of the few boats sailing at that time.

For Finnish immigrants, the usual route to America began in the harbor in Hanko, Finland. A ship would bring them to Hull, England; then they would take a train across Britain to Southampton.

Greg Isola told us about the 66 Finns who sailed on the Titanic—their names, ages, where they sailed from, where they were going. For many, he had photos. Most people were young, in their twenties and thirties. There were mothers with their children, enroute to join husbands in America. Single men shared steerage compartments. One group of young men were heading to Sudbury. A mother sailed with two of her children; a ten-year-old boy stayed in Finland because he didn’t want “to go with them to drown.” Jacob Johansson, a 34-year-old Aland islander, kept a diary in Swedish that later provided an interesting view of the sailing. Hedwig Turkula, 63, was one of the oldest immigrants; she was heading for Hibbing. William and Anna Lahtinen were Americans from Cokato, Minnesota, who were travelling with Lyyli Sifven, Anna’s young cousin. Their return had been delayed by the illness and death of their daughter Agnes; they rebooked on the Titanic.

Besides being a luxurious passenger ship, the Titanic was truly an immigrant ship; immigration was a money-maker. At 882 feet long, the Titanic was “the largest moving object ever made.” It was not designed for speed; the builders chose luxury and features. It was packed with mail: “RMS” means “Royal Mail Ship.” Thousands of bags of mail were not going to be delivered. The Titanic had the best safety features of the day, thought to be everything needed for any conceivable situation. The voyage began uneventfully. On April 13, the wireless broke, and the operators fixed it (though they were not supposed to take that on—the wireless was regarded as a frill).

On April 14 came ice warnings. It was Sunday, and church services were held. For some reason, the mandatory lifeboat drill was cancelled.

The night was moonless; the sea was still and cold (31 degrees). The captain routed the ship to the south to avoid the danger of ice. At 11:40 p.m., the lookout spotted the iceberg. Thirty-seven seconds later, the ship hit the iceberg. Greg showed us a photo, probably of the very iceberg—it carried a streak of red paint.

Most people heard and felt nothing. Rockets were fired, an SOS was sent, and the crew began deploying the lifeboats (16 lifeboats plus four collapsibles). People didn’t want to get in the little boats, and at first didn’t believe there was danger.

Anna Lahtinen and Lyyli Sifven got on a boat, but Anna got off when she saw that William was not getting on. The boats began to launch. A steward went down to bring up many third-class passengers. We heard who made it onto each lifeboat, and the order and approximate time of launching. The last boat launched at 2:15 a.m., at 2:30 a.m., the ship sank.

Who died? Who lived? Johanssen didn’t survive, but his diary was retrieved from the water and sent to his family. The Lahtinens died. There were 2228 on board; 1523 died (about one-third survived). Of the 66 Finns, 23 survived (again, one-third). Lyyli Sifven survived, turning up in Ellis Island records in a list of passengers compiled in June. Hedwig Turkula made it to Hibbing.

On Saturday, April 14, 2012, the Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society will present a special centennial event in recognition of the close connection of the Titanic story with Finnish-America and specifically with Cokato. For more information see Greg Isola’s Web site, <http://finn.st/titanic/>.

## Pieniä Paloja

- April servers were Marjorie and Ellard Krohnfeldt and Luella Zibell. *Kiitos!*
- Finnish manufacturers of prefabricated buildings will soon be playing a role in the reconstruction of Haiti. The recent earthquake has left many homeless and living in temporary tent cities. The wooden prefabricated buildings are fast to build and can withstand earthquakes.
- An agreement between the Würzburg Diocese of Germany and Finland has made way for new opportunities and second chances for troubled young girls between the ages of 13–16. The young girls spend six months on a small farm in southeastern Finland, where they have to live without running water, heat and television. The nearest town is 40 kilometers away. The girls have to follow a strict schedule that includes a daily class at 8 a.m. Some of the participants decide to stay in Finland after the camp is over.
- Move over tango! Finnish women of all ages and walks of life have caught “zumba fever” the dance fitness craze. Health clubs and gyms in Helsinki, Vantaa, and Espoo are offering classes in this new form of exercise.
- Recently, *Statistics Finland* reported that the Finnish birthrate is the highest that it has been in 40 years. Last year 60,430 children were born.
- The Finnish government has agreed on a massive support package for renewable energy, especially wind power and the use of wood. This should result in erecting around 850-950 new large windmills across the country to generate electricity. In addition, the government is promoting the use of wood in energy production with a support package, the main purpose of which is to get waste wood out of the forests and to replace fossil fuels with renewable wood energy.
- In Finland, professional beekeepers have hundreds of hives, many of which are taken to fruit orchards, berry gardens, and rapeseed farms to ensure pollination. A growing concern, though, is the rising average age of beekeepers, who are pondering retirement. The new U. S. Ambassador to Finland, Bruce Orek, is setting up a beehive in the fenced-off yard of the American Embassy in Helsinki. Orek himself, is concerned about the decline in natural diversity, and wants to promote small-scale urban beekeeping.

## More Calendar Items (from page 8)

**June 19** Mid-Summer Event. Video “Letters from Karelia” at 6:30 p.m. Temperance Corner—3 miles N on Cty Rd 3 off Hwy 12, Cokato, Mn. Bonfire and dessert at 7:30 p.m. at the school yard.

**June 20** Oulainen Youth Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m., Kenwood Lutheran Church, 324 West Cleveland St., Duluth.

**June 21** Oulainen Youth Choir Concert, 7:30 p.m., Central Lutheran Church, 333 South 12 St., Mpls..

**June 25–27** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Nordic Naturally will be held at the Hjemkomst Center in Moorhead. Featuring: Taste of Scandinavia, Musical Entertainment; Dancing, Parade of Flags, Icelandic Boy Choir. Nordic entertainment, foods, dancing, shopping, a 5K run/walk, and much, much, more! [www.NordicCultureClubs.org](http://www.NordicCultureClubs.org) or call: (701) 478-9150.

**July 18–24** SISU (*Suomen Innokkaat Sisukkaat Ulkosuomalaiset*) offers its 8th Finnish Language and Culture seminar for adults, University of Minnesota, Duluth. One-week seminar includes 25-30 hours of Finnish language study at three levels plus other activities. More: [kaisa@eurekanet.com](mailto:kaisa@eurekanet.com), (740) 592-1157, Kathleen Ristinen, Secretary, 2 North Shannon Avenue, Athens, OH 45701

**July 28-Aug 1** Finn Grand Fest, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada. [www.finngrandfest2010.com/](http://www.finngrandfest2010.com/)

### 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             |
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| <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   |

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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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



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)

## FACA CALENDAR

**May 16** Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Rölli* <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0249131/> Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis.

**May 21** FACA monthly program 7:30 p.m., International Institute, 1694 Como Ave. St. Paul.

**May 22** Finnish Genealogy Group of Mn. Monthly meeting, 9:30 a.m. Annual awards and election of officers. Ken Daniels and Joan Dwyer will explain how they discovered that their ancestors lived on the same farm in Sweden's Tornio River Valley, but at different times. Plymouth Apostolic Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. More information: [dwyers@ties2.net](mailto:dwyers@ties2.net) or FGGMN website.

**May 28** FACA Summer calendar *Utiset* deadline. Copy to Mary at [mary.belanger@dctc.edu](mailto:mary.belanger@dctc.edu)

**May 29** Memorial celebration, Cokato. 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., 3 miles north on Cty. Rd 3 off Hwy. 12. Bake sale: 10:00 a.m. Program at noon “The Helping Hand” Finnish people from the Cokato area worked tirelessly for many years to help the people in Finland during their wars. Lunch and drawing.

**June 11–12** Nisswa-stämman “11” 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 Polkka Chicks Duo of Finland, Finn Hall, and Arne Salli. For more information: (218) 764-2994, [pwilson@brainerd.net](mailto:pwilson@brainerd.net), [www.nisswastamman.org](http://www.nisswastamman.org).

**June 11–July 14** American Swedish Institute Midsommar Festival featuring Finland. (See page 5.)

**June 12** Singing Strings will perform a delightful summer program of Nordic music 6:00 p.m., Centennial Lakes Park, Edina. The program will be held in the outdoor auditorium by the clubhouse. Other guests may be included. Centennial Lakes Park is located at 7499 France Ave. South., Edina. Park phone is (952) 833-9583. No set admission but donations appreciated.

**June 12** Finnish-American Summer Festival, Timber Hall, Embarrass. Hours: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Entertainment, crafters and Finnish meal. For more information, call Pat Heikkila, (218) 229-2198 or e-mail at [pheikkila@frontiernet.net](mailto:pheikkila@frontiernet.net).

*More calendar items on page 7*