



Uutiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

May/Toukokuu 2011

The Finnish Cookbook Beatrice Ojakangas

Finnish-American award-winning cook, author, teacher, and speaker Beatrice Ojakangas will join FACA for the May program.

In 1957, a young cook, wife, and soon-to-be first-time mother living on a military base in England entered her recipe for cheese bread into the Pillsbury Bake-Off. Although Ojakangas didn't win first place that year, she may be the Bake-Off's biggest success story. Today her first book, *The Finnish Cookbook*, is in its 38th printing. "I guess I've just been a bit lucky," says Ojakangas, a member of the James Beard Cookbook Hall of Fame (2005).



With hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles and 27 books under her belt, Ojakangas could be said to be the Julia Child of Finnish cuisine. In fact, she appeared with Child on the television program *Baking with Julia* in 1995 and has a long list of television appearances including the Food Network's annual holiday program, *Baker's Dozen*.

For her first book, *The Finnish Cookbook*, Ojakangas spent a year traveling in Finland learning recipes and writing. Rye, lingonberries, and cloudberry were the elements of Finnish cuisine that were used in recipes passed down verbally from generation to generation. Growing up the oldest of ten children in Floodwood, Minnesota, Ojakangas was the only grandchild who could speak Finnish; so her grandmother taught her Finnish food words. "While I was in Finland I would ask people about the words my grandma taught me," says Ojakangas.

Program In Brief

Finnish Cookbook
Bea Ojakangas
Friday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul
If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
(612) 374-2718

In addition, *The Great Scandinavian Baking Book* received a James Beard Award. Another book that Ojakangas wrote after traveling to all of the Scandinavian countries, *Scandinavian Feasts*, went out of print after fourteen months, but was recently brought back into print along with seven other books by the University of Minnesota Press.

Ojakangas will speak about cooking, recipe development, writing, teaching, and traveling in both the US and Finland. She will also provide food and beverage recommendations for the upcoming *Juhannus* celebrations as well as sign copies of her cookbooks which will be for sale that evening.

<http://beatrice-ojakangas.com/about-bea/>

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President's Message

By Kara Middleton



The April program was well attended and we had a great time. Michael Nordskog and Aaron W. Hautala delivered a fascinating and fun presentation about their book, *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition*. Walking us through the process of making the book, they talked about the difficult challenge of capturing the character of each sauna on film. They also talked about many instances where chance circumstances paved the way for an extraordinary photograph. It seems that sometimes the chance happenings in art are better than anything one could orchestrate. For all of us who have grown up with the tradition of sauna on lakes in northern Minnesota, or elsewhere in the Midwest or in Finland, the book is a treasure. A little bit of all of our lives is in the book. And the Minnesota Book Award that Aaron and Michael received is one that we can all take pride in. Thanks also to Kathy Jackson and Dan & Delores Salin for the beautiful array of refreshments!

We are concluding a year of excellent programming this month. It has been a privilege for me to serve as President of FACA this year. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you. I have also enjoyed every one of our talented guest speakers.

In order to keep FACA going into next year, we will rely on your continued help. As I announced at the April program, we will be losing three board members this year. In addition to Jeanne Swope and Jane Olson, Ray Piirainen will also be leaving the board due to his work and travel schedule. Jeanne, Jane, and Ray have contributed to FACA immensely throughout this past year. Jeanne was program chair for the two previous years and secretary in the current year. Jane has managed hospitality for each program with perfect grace and ease. And Ray has done a fabulous job in arranging each program this year and in writing about them. I appreciate all of their efforts and will miss having them at our board meetings. The search is underway for three new board members. If you have an interest in joining the board, please feel free to contact me.

For our final program this year, we are privileged to have as our guest Beatrice Ojakangas, well-known cookbook author and Finnish food expert. In my family when I was growing up, Ojakangas was a household name. My mother made *karjalan piirakka*, *lanttulaatikko*, *karjalan paisti*, and other dishes from Beatrice's cookbooks. Today these books are in my kitchen. They are somewhat dog-eared, with wavy pages and occasional spots where something was spilled. In the inside cover of *The Finnish Cookbook*, my grandmother has written, "Happy cooking, Daughter." This gives me the feeling that both my mother and grandmother are in the kitchen with me. I'm sure that many of you have similar connections with Beatrice's work and will enjoy seeing her this month.

Please check our calendar on the last page of the newsletter for many great Finnish American cultural events coming up. *Kiitos!*

Board Notes

By Jeanne Swope



L-R Kara Middleton, Glen Bay, Jane Olson, Jeanne Swope, Edith Boos, Ray Piirainen

President Kara Middleton called the meeting to order at 7:30 at the home of Jeanne Swope on Wednesday April 13, 2011. Present at meeting: Kara Middleton, Ray Piirainen, Jane Olson, Edie Boos, Glen Bay, and Jeanne Swope. Minutes of the March meeting and the Treasurer's report were reviewed and approved.

We discussed the Festival of Nations planning. A committee is working with Kara on the exhibit booth, which will provide information about Finland in the world market. The café is in excellent shape under Junelle Bernard. A limited number of parking vouchers will be available to workers.

The annual election will be in May, and we will need three new board members. Jane Olson and Jeanne Swope will complete their terms, and Ray Piirainen, regretfully, cannot continue due to increasing travel at work. An active board is vital to FACA's continued health.

Delores and Dan Salin and Kathy Jackson will provide hospitality for the April program.

We discussed various ideas for additional publicity for the May program, since the food community may be very interested in hearing Beatrice Ojakangas.

Next meeting: Ray Piirainen's house, Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Welcome New Members!

**Nancy Kangas, Wakefield, MI
Darryl Terho, Minneapolis**

Tervetuloa!

Finnish Folk Music Camp

offered on the Shores of Lake Superior

On July 12-14, traditional Finnish music will permeate the lakes and forests of Michigan's Copper Country, where Finnish-American identity vibrantly lives on. From Saturday evening sauna to specialty comfort foods, folks carry on their Finnish traditions as part of everyday life. Arguably, none do it more significantly than those who play traditional Finnish music at festivals and weddings, in humble kitchens or on stylish patios, and even along the pristine shores of Lake Superior. For the first time ever, Finlandia University's Finnish Council and the Finnish American Heritage Center offer a Finnish traditional music camp opportunity.

Situated on the beautiful shore of Lake Superior, Camp Lahti, originally a Finnish farm and commercial fisherman's home, is a perfect setting to experience and learn Finnish folk music in a variety of ways and levels.

We have planned an exciting array of offerings, taught by experienced musicians: fiddle, guitar, mandolin, *kantele* (include building your own 5-string), bones, spoons, dancing, singing, and more!

If you want to enjoy the camp experience but do not want to play an instrument, other activities will be offered, including classes in Finnish cooking, wood carving, and ornament making from objects found in nature. The camp is located on a secluded section of Rabbit Bay, and campers are invited to partake of nature walks and beachcombing in lieu of or in addition to other activities. Campers lodge in dormitories for men or women, and space is provided for tent camping and campers (with electric hook ups).

Three meals per day will be provided on Wednesday and Thursday in the camp's dining room. Dinner will follow registration on Tuesday evening, capped off by a faculty concert and later, jamming around the campfire and sauna.

Cost is \$125 per person for classes and \$125 per person for room and board. If payment is received before June 15, an early-bird rate of \$100 for each applies.

Sightseeing and summer sports abound in the Copper Country. The Aura Jamboree in nearby Aura, Michigan, begins the day after camp ends, July 15th. The annual Strawberry Festival in Chassell, Michigan, occurs the weekend before camp begins, on July 8-9. The U.S. premiere of the opera *Rockland* is July 15 and 17.

For more information or to reserve your spot, visit www.finlandia.edu/musiccamp or call (906) 487-7505.

Kaivama CD Release with Arto Järvelä

Finnish-American musicians Sara Pajunen and Jonathan Rundman of the folk duo Kaivama grew up in the Northwoods cultures of long winters, lakeside saunas, rugged terrain, and solitude.

On Friday, June 17, you can join them in celebrating the release of their new self-titled debut album at the Cedar Cultural Center in Minneapolis.

Both ancient and modern Finnish influences reveal themselves in Kaivama's sound: danceable rhythms, joyous melodies, icy whispers, sleek construction, primal drones, and poppy hooks all interplay as Pajunen and Rundman explore the music of their ancestors.



Rounding out the evening of beautiful Finnish folk music will be the renowned fiddler and composer Arto Järvelä (of JPP, and collaborator with many others), a fourth generation member of the famous Järvelä fiddler family.

Doors open at 7:00 p.m., and Arto Jarvela hits the stage at 8:00 p.m. Advance tickets are: \$15.00 or \$18.00 day of the show. Additional information can be found at: www.thecedar.org/artists/kaivama



Internationally Known Artist Diane Jarvi to Perform

Concert Culminates Nine-Month Folk Music Residency with Cokato Historical and Finnish-American Historical Societies

Singing on a Joy Stone, a family-friendly show and lunch takes place at 2:00 p.m., on Sunday, May 15 at Dassel History Center's Universal Laboratories Building. All are invited to experience this historically typical Finn Hall evening: poetry, stories, dance, singing and *kantele* music. In this culminating element of an extensive residency called *Ancestral Fires: Stories and Songs from Finland and Finnish-America*, Minnesota's own Diane Jarvi draws on local oral and written immigrant history in collaboration with Cokato area community members for a full concert performance. A host of other renowned Minnesota artists perform along with Jarvi and participants in intergenerational *kantele* (Finnish folk harp) workshops she has conducted in Cokato since September.

Featured performers are well-known accordionist Dan Newton from Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion*, and exceptional world music guitarist and mandolin player Brian Barnes. As a trio (with Jarvi) they had a successful musical tour all throughout Finland. Jarvi and Newton also performed together in northern Finland for a Northern Lights Festival.

Other guest artists include: folk dancers from the internationally known Finnish-American dance group Kisarit and members of the Finn Hall Band from the Twin Cities area, featuring Ralph Tuttila on mandolin and *jouhikeko*; Cheryl Paschke on violin and nyckelharpa; and Dennis Halme on accordion.

An educational program booklet, a collection of Finnish songs, music, and ancestral stories produced in collaboration with the community will be distributed free to audience members. In the future, the *Singing on a Joy Stone* publication will be available locally through the Cokato historical groups and also distributed to other communities in order to raise awareness, appreciation, and visibility of Finnish-America.

Lunch is provided by the historical societies. At the end of the show, an exquisite walnut and birch five-string *kantele*, handcrafted by Gerry Henkel of Duluth, will be raffled off. Raffle tickets will be available in advance for \$2 from Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society.

This event is co-presented by New Bohemian Arts Cooperative, Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society, and Cokato Historical Society. Proceeds will benefit *Ancestral Fires: Songs and Stories of Finland and Finnish America*, an extended residency exploring Finnish and Finnish-American music.

For more information contact the New Bohemian Arts Cooperative 3220 East 24th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55406. (651) 336-4202, info@newbohemianarts.coop

Summer Calendar Deadline

Utiset's Summer Calendar issue deadline is May 27. Send notices of all your summer activities to facaeditor@gmail.com!!

Experience San Diego with Electric Bikes

By Erin Belanger

San Diego is truly a treasure to explore and what better way to experience all "America's Finest City" has to offer than with San Diego Fly Rides. Husband/wife duo Ike and Megan Fazzio team up to offer tours of downtown San Diego, Balboa Park, La Jolla, Cabrillo National Monument, and Coronado. Their tours are a lot of fun and riding an electric bike is definitely the way to see the city. For those of you who have not ridden an electric bike, think of a regular bike but with a small motor to assist you up hills or when you are just tired of pedaling. They are fun, easy to operate, and make San Diego incredibly accessible to everyone. The guides are entertaining and give a historical and current narrative to bring San Diego's rich culture to life. They are also great about stopping for pictures, so bring your camera!



Here's a review from TripAdvisor from one of their guests: "Ike and Megan, the owners of San Diego Fly Rides, are amazing! They have really taken their time to select and formulate tours that are very different, but yet still showcase San Diego's finest places. They take you out on super retro electric bikes with super cushy seats. The bikes are great because if you want to work at it and pedal, then you can... but if you want to go really fast or not work very hard you press a button and the battery does the work for you (which yes, is very handy on mountains and hills). We zoomed up the hills in no time!"

If you only have time for one tour in San Diego, then you can't beat San Diego Fly Rides.

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

San Diego Fly Rides is now offering a 15% Off early booking special for all attendees of FinnFest 2011 until July 1, 2011.

This Special Promotion is good for:
Stingaree Tour of Downtown San Diego showcasing the Gaslamp Quarter, Petco Park, Little Italy, and the Embarcadero Harbor or the Spanish Twist Tour of Balboa Park.

Take advantage of this spectacular special of a Guided Electric Bike Tour of San Diego Today! Go to www.sandiegoflyrides.com, place your reservation, then enter finnfest2011 in the Discount box at checkout.

San Diego Fly Rides *innolla odottaa näyttämään parhainta kaupunkista!* ("looks forward to showing the best of our city!")

Historical Church Tours

Free docent-led public tours of Christ Church Lutheran are offered on the first Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m., following the 9:30 worship service. Private and group tours may be arranged for other times by emailing reservations@christchurchluth.com. The \$10 per person fee includes a \$5 souvenir booklet about the building. Tour fees go to preserving this National Historic Landmark.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

FACA needs your ideas and your helping hand. If you can help with any of the committees or events, please return this form. Thanks!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Hospitality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitor Hospitality |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Laskiainen</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pikkujoulu</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Property | <input type="checkbox"/> Festival of Nations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Phone |

Name _____

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Phone _____

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

April Meeting Recap

By Ray Piirainen

“...and the winner of the 2011 Minnesota Book Award for General Nonfiction is... *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition!*”



Author Michael

Nordskog and photographer Aaron W. Hautala provided an engaging and delightful presentation of their now award-winning book at the April 15 FACA program on the evening before the award ceremony and announcement. Nordskog began the presentation reading from the book quoting Jon Saari of the U.P. talking about his smoke (*savu*) sauna, “When you fire up this sauna, you are committing yourself to something special, a day well spent.”

It was definitely an evening well spent for FACA members and guests. Hautala’s wonderful photos were enhanced by his descriptions of his work and sometimes good fortune in taking the photographs. More importantly, his passion for his work was evident as he intertwined his presentation with comments regarding sauna and relatives during his boyhood on the Minnesota Iron Range. The book’s photos and stories in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ontario and Finland ranged from 200+ year old farms in Finland to North American pioneer homesteads to modern saunas.

Nordskog shared his northeastern Minnesota heritage and his introduction to the sauna tradition. He talked about the importance to early Finnish settlers of not only first constructing the building that would ultimately become their bathhouse, but also of where it would be located relative to the farmstead. “No respectable Finn could live in the wilderness very long without a sauna...The sauna was really the heart of the farmyard just as the kitchen was the heart of the house.”

Although the sauna is really the heart of the book, Nordskog and Hautala explore many themes important to Finnish-Americans. For example, Hautala’s wonderful photograph of the Hanka homestead of the U.P. is brought to life by Nordskog’s description of Herman Hanka’s life after leaving Finland. “Hanka first worked in the mines but fled that dangerous occupation after an explosion killed the miner standing next to him...”

In addition, the book’s cover photo of the Puikkonen sauna and corresponding story regarding the group of lake homes and saunas surrounding it contains a few

surprises: “...by the end of World War II eight of nine consecutive lots were owned by Finnish families...Each of the Finnish families built a sauna on their lot that endures to the present day...” However, the Puikkonen sauna was likely constructed from logs from an earlier logging camp on the site. “Aside from the beauty of the buildings and setting, the most striking aspect of this string of saunas is the collective effort behind it,” writes Nordskog. “From cooperatives to unions to temperance societies, Finnish immigrants had a strong reputation for sticking together as well as remaining apart.”

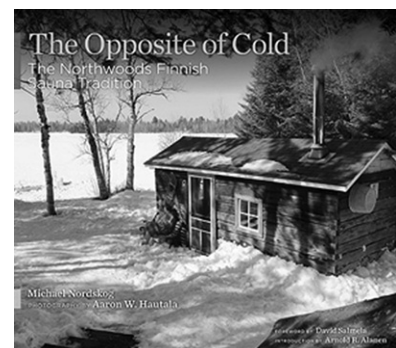
Hautala discussed the surprising requirement by the book publishers that the book cover photo be altered to remove the distant, rear-view of a naked adult making her way from the sauna to an opening cut in the ice-covered lake. However, true to their beliefs as well as general Finnish and sauna thinking regarding the naked human body, Hautala and Nordskog had the unaltered photograph included within the book.

The final surprise occurred following the program when one of the FACA members said the cover photograph seemed familiar. After purchasing the book from Nordskog and Hautala, he realized he had enjoyed a few Saturday night saunas as a child at the Puikkonen summer cottage (*kesämökki*) including cooling leaps into the lake.

For the future, Nordskog said that, in addition to his work as a lawyer, he was reviewing potential historical novels based upon the Lake Superior fur trade. Hautala said his RedHouseMedia company is already working on a project called “A Positive Change”, in which members of the Brainerd area are photographed indentifying what they see as positive aspects of their community.

Although the ceremony and announcement of the book award occurred the evening following the FACA program, *The Opposite of Cold* Facebook site reports that the response to winning the award was “Light the Saturday night sauna in celebration!”

The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition. Michael Nordskog and Aaron W. Hautala. University of Minnesota Press, 2010



Pieniä Paloja

- *Kiitos* to April coffee servers Dan and Delores Salin and Kathy Jackson.
- Timo Soini and the True Finns leapt from being a grouping with just five seats in the outgoing Parliament to become the third-largest party in the country, with 39 Members of Parliament and a 19% share of the vote. The National Coalition became the largest grouping in Parliament, with 44 seats, for the first time in the party's history.
- A family of urbanized eagle owls has been nesting on the terrace of a downtown restaurant, attracting large crowds of birdwatchers. Food seems to be the main reason for the city eagle owls' settling in the Greater Helsinki area—especially since there has been such an abundance of rabbits.
- Vehicle sales have picked up in Finland. Interest levels are low, the employment situation has improved, and people's expectations with regard to the development of the economy are cautiously optimistic. At the end of last year the average age of the Finnish passenger cars was 11.9 years.
- Finnish teams took a historic 1-2 at the Synchronized Skating World Championships held recently. Third place went to Team USA.
- The Finnish Border Guard is looking at new technology options for the supervision of Finland's land borders. Surveillance electronics combined with border dogs have been a very good combination protecting the Finnish borders.
- Aesthetic surgery is growing in popularity as teachers, artists, and other persons who have to appear in front of others are interested in liposuction. The Social Insurance Institution of Finland does not provide reimbursement for the cost.
- Last year, there were 96 million borrowings from Finland's public libraries. The number of customer visits was 53 million. Despite the figures, which in international comparison are actually very high, the use of Finland's public library system went down by about three per cent.
- From the fish farms in the Norwegian fjords alone, some 23 million kilograms of farmed salmon were imported into Finland last year. Today, the Finns eat almost as much Norwegian salmon as all the domestic fish varieties put together. On average, one trailer-truck's worth of Norwegian salmon is freighted each day from Norway to the Finnish fish wholesalers, and carried from there, as pre-packed fillets to the supermarkets.
- Minnesota Wild captain Mikko Koivu is fulfilling his obligatory Finnish military service. Under Finnish law, young men must complete at least six months of military service, but not necessarily in one stretch.

Calendar—continued from pg.8

is a perfect setting to experience and learn Finnish folk music in a variety of ways and levels. (*See page 3.*)

Aug 10–14 FinnFest 2011, Catch the Finnish Wave, San Diego, CA. www.finnfest2011.com/

Finnish Cucumber Salad

Servings: 4

Prep Time: 10 mins

Ingredients:

2 cucumbers

Dressing:

1/3 cup cider vinegar

5 tablespoons water

5 tablespoons sugar

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon dill weed

1 dash white pepper (optional)

Directions:

Rinse the cucumbers. Do not peel, but score the skin by peeling the lines of a fork lengthwise through the peel.

Slice cucumbers into very thin slices. Put into bowl with a lid.

Mix the dressing ingredients. Pour over the cucumber slices and toss lightly.

Cover with a lid and shake to coat evenly. Chill several hours to allow flavors to blend. It keeps well for days!

Source: Food.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.)

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Email _____



Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

FACA

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

Information: (612) 374-2718, www.finnfaca.org

May 15 *Singing on a Joy Stone*, Diane Jarvi and a host of other renowned Minnesota artists, 2:00 p.m., Dassel History Center. (See pg. 4.)

May 15 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Risto Rappääjä* www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=848, Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis. More information: (651) 428-3155.

May 18 FACA Board meeting, home of Ray Piirainen, 7:30 p.m.

May 19 Finnish American Chamber of Commerce MN., 7:00 p.m. Carlson School of Management Executive MBA students share experiences from their recent visit to Finland: what they learned from Nokia, Kone, Neste, and Fortum. University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management, 321 Nineteenth Ave. S., Minneapolis. www.facc-mn.com

May 20 FACA Program, Finnish Cooking, Bea Ojakangas. (See pg. 1.)

May 21 Elections and open discussion of summer plans. 9:30 a.m., Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota, Meetings at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth.

May 27 *Uutiset* deadline, summer issue. Copy to facaeditor@gmail.com

May 28 Cokato Memorial Day Spring Festival, 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Program at Noon: Sami Roots, Temperance Corner, 3 miles north on Co. Rd. 3 from Cokato

(Hwy. 12). More information: www.CokatoFinnAm.org

June 10–11 Nisswa-stämman “12” will take place at the Nisswa Pioneer village in Nisswa. 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 Arto Järvelä from Finland. For more information: (218) 764-2994, pwilson@brainerd.net, www.nisswastamman.org. www.myspace.com/artojarvela/shows

June 17 Kaivama CD Release, with Arto Järvelä. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., The Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Avenue South, Minneapolis, (612) 338-2674 More information: www.thecedar.org. (See pg. 4.)

June 24–25 34th Annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County, 202 1st Ave N, Moorhead. (218) 299-5452 www.nordic-cultureclubs.org

June 25 Cokato Mid-Summer (*Juhannus Kokko*) 6:30 p.m. Program in Temperance Hall, 7:30 Potluck dessert and bonfire. Temperance Corner, 3 miles north on Co. Rd. 3 from Cokato (Hwy. 12). More information: www.CokatoFinnAm.org

July 12–14 Finnish Folk Music Camp. Situated on the beautiful shore of Lake Superior, Camp Lahti—originally a Finnish farm and commercial fisherman's home,

More calendar items on pg. 7