



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

November/December 2004

Marraskuu/Joulukuu 2004



### “Remembering Finn Hall”: Barbara Hanka, Jim Johnson, and children Diana and Sergei

Barbara Hanka, a musician from Duluth, will be featured at our meeting on November 19 at 7:30 PM at the International Institute of St. Paul. She and her family will present a varied program, “Remembering Finn Hall”, that will feature music, poetry, commentary on Finnish culture, singing, and dancing. It reflects their family interest and passion for Finnish-American history and

culture, and will resemble the historical Finn Hall programs of the past. The program will feature large and small *kanteles*, with both traditional Finnish and original songs.

Barb has been a performer and composer of piano and vocal songs for the past twenty years. She is inspired by Finnish heritage and culture, family history, Lake Superior, and environmental topics—integrating folk, ethnic, classical, jazz, blues, and new age styles. As a professional musician, she has performed at folk and Finnish festivals, including FinnFest and Ironworld, and is an elementary music instructor in the Duluth public school district at the Lowell Music Magnet School. She plays piano, *kantele*, and accordion, as well as other stringed and wind instruments. Also, Barb has a new CD available called “*A Change of Seasons*” featuring traditional Finnish and her original compositions.

Jim Johnson, also a Duluth school-teacher will read his prose poems that deal with Finnish and ethnic culture in the natural world he lives in. He has published four books and has had poems in regional history and literary magazines. The third book, *Wolves* won the 1991 Minnesota Voices Contest. His fourth book *Dovetailed Corners*, a collaboration with Marlene Wisuri and Jesse Hendricks, documented the life and culture of the early Finnish immigrants.

#### FACCA PROGRAM

**Remembering Finn Hall**

**Friday, November 19**

**7:30 p.m.**

**International Institute**

**1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**

*If you need transportation,  
call Marianne Wargelin*

*at 612-374-2718*

As a special treat, their children Diana and Sergei will sing, play *kantele*, and perhaps even dance.

Come join this talented family for an evening of music and poetry. There might even be a chance to sing along on some of the old favorites. Afterwards, enjoy a cup of coffee and talk with your friends.

## FACA 2004–2005 Board of Directors

President:

**Alan Norgard**  
651-786-5988  
norgard@winternet.com

Vice President/Program Chair:

**Floyd Niskanen**  
763-540-0121  
fniskanen@aol.com

Secretary:

**Luella Zibell**  
651-482-1965

Treasurer:

**Andreas Ostenso**  
651-646-9604  
tostenso@yahoo.com

Special Events Coordinator:

Hospitality Chair:

## FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor and Graphic Design:

**Tiina Watts**  
3101 129th Lane NW  
Coon Rapids, MN 55448  
763-323-6690  
tiiwatts@usfamily.net

Graphic Design:

**Beth Jarvis**  
763-536-9561  
brjarvis@umn.edu

Contributing Editors:

**Al Norgard, Luella Zibell,  
Verdie Niskanen, Joan  
Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen**

Mailing:

**Urho and Pam Rahkola**

## President's Message

*By Alan Norgard*



This fall season has been speeding by in a blur. It seems like I just wrote my last column and here I am again looking for inspiration for something to say. As I am writing this the Boston Red Sox have just won the American League Championship—way to go, guys! I'm glad they got in the Series by defeating the Yankees (a small bit of revenge for us Twins fans). I saw an article on the Virtual Finland website ([www.virtualfinland.fi](http://www.virtualfinland.fi)) that *Sotkamon Jymy* won the national *pesäpallo* championship title this year, defeating *Kitee* two games to one. Maybe the American World Series champs could be persuaded to play them for an international title?

The Virtual.Finland site also had a lot of other interesting articles on such things as the renovation of the Alvar Aalto-designed Viipuri Public Library and Finland's latest ranking as the world's most competitive economy among 104 countries. This first place ranking is the third time in the last four years Finland has come out on top. The United States came in second this year.

I would like to thank Veijo Paine again for his program last month. It was an interesting and moving life story he told, and I learned a lot about a child's life in Finland during the Winter War years. When you start learning about the backgrounds and lives of FACA members you discover the rich and varied heritage we, as a club, represent. I think programs like this are a good way to celebrate and share this heritage. Tell Floyd Niskanen (our program chair) if you know of other interesting stories that could be presented.

I hope everyone will be able to attend Pikkujoulu this year. The board is still doing a lot of planning and we will be needing some volunteers to help with the setup and cleanup as well as people to help serve the meal. If you are interested, contact one of the board members and let them know what you are willing to do.

See you at the November meeting!

FACA Memberships make  
great Christmas presents!



## Kauneimmat Joululaulut Service of Finnish Christmas Carols

Saturday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m., a celebration of Finnish Christmas music will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1660 West County Road B (south of 36, between Snelling and Fairview) in Roseville. In addition to various choirs, instrumental music, readings, and refreshments, we will have as our special guest and performer, Osmo Vänskä, Music Director of the Minnesota Orchestra.

There will be a free will offering to benefit the childrens' ministry in Karelia.

For more information, call 218-728-6439 or 651-633-8221.

## Taste of Scandinavia Fall Feast

Soile Anderson's *Taste of Scandinavia* restaurant will be hosting a Fall Feast, Friday, November 19, at 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. at both the Little Canada and the North Oaks locations. The dinner will include lutefisk, Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, peas, lingonberries, handmade lefse, and pickled Herring, with Strawberry Torte or Lingonberry Cheesecake for dessert. The cost is \$16.95 per person. The Finnish Women's Vocal Ensemble *Pohjan Akat* is performing at Little Canada location. To reserve a seat, call 651-482-8876. Specify Little Canada or North Oaks location.

## Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

At the October 12 Board Meeting, plans for upcoming programs and events comprised the main part of the agenda. The Pikkujoulu celebration will occur on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>; location and menu details, as well as a reservation form are included in this newsletter.

Updating and enhancing our website is a priority—Beth Jarvis is working on expanding the links and updating the content of our pages.

Membership retention and seeking new members are continuing concerns. We will encourage present members to sign up new members.

The next meeting of the Board will held on Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 910 West County Road D (at Victoria) in Roseville, at 7:30 p.m. We welcome guests. Come with questions and ideas!

### FACA Website To Be Updated

Do you have pictures of FACA activities? Have you been actively involved with FACA events? If so, we could use your help!

The FACA website is being renovated. To do so, we need photos of FACA activities. Do you have some we could use? (They don't have to be digital images. We can scan them.) If you've been involved in some of the FACA activities, we could use your help reviewing the activities write ups.

Do you have ideas how to make the FACA website more useful to you as a FACA member? If so, e-mail Beth Jarvis at brjarvis@umn.edu with your suggestions.

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## New FACA Board Member

By Floyd Niskanen

This summer I was asked to serve on the FACA board and I agreed. My schedule was starting to ease up and it is a honor for me to serve. I will start this year as VP and Program chair. As program chair, I would ask you all for input, suggestions for programs and or any other thoughts you have for FACA. Although I have served on the FACA board before, I will introduce myself for the new members and to note recent changes.

I am a third generation American Finn who grew up in the Sebeka area and graduated from high school there. My grandparents emigrated from Finland in the 1890s and came to Minnesota to own land and farm. My father's family settled in the Sebeka area and my mother's family settled in the Menahga area (2 points of the Finnish triangle). After high school, I joined the navy to fulfill my military obligations. After that I attended the U of MN and graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I held various positions at Honeywell, Litton Microwave, and the Toro Company.

In 1987 I made a trip to Finland which got me interested in family history research. That led me to study Finnish, because the research information was in Finnish. As I became somewhat fluent in Finnish, I was asked to help a city group (*Kuhmon Sampo*) get a booth and sell their products at the Finnfest in Minot. This presented an opportunity for a part-time business that could be interesting and fit with my Finnish interests. So I thought of a name and registered as an import company with the State of Minnesota. This made it much easier to bring the *Kuhmo* products into the US and to sell them. I searched for and found more products and with the *Kuhmo* products I proceeded to grow the business and in 1997 I left my regular job.

This winter I started thinking of retiring and also my niece was interested in finding a home-based business. We met and discussed the business. She and her husband decided it would be a good one for them to try and now they are taking over the business. They have already imported products from Finland as well as found new products to sell. She will continue to *continued, next column*



## Pikkujoulu Set for December 11

By Theresa Lund

The traditional Finnish Christmas Dinner and program will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 11 at the Roseville Skating Center. The Center, which is located near the intersection of Lexington and County Road C. in Roseville, has plenty of parking and is handicap accessible. Soile Anderson from Deco Catering will once again perform her culinary artistry preparing the traditional Finnish foods which are not only mouth-wateringly delicious but beautifully displayed.

If you attended our September meeting, you will remember how delightful the *Pohjan Akat* ("Witches of the North") were. If you missed the meeting, you will not want to miss Pikkujoulu when they will again enchant us with the delightful Christmas music of Finland. These young women who are either from Finland or have lived in Finland but now reside in Minnesota, accompany themselves on traditional and non-traditional instruments like scrub boards and kitchen utensils. ...And can they sing!

A formal invitation is included in this newsletter with directions to the skating center printed on the back. However, the spaces fill up quickly so tear off your reservation form from the invitation today and send it in to assure your seat at this delightful event.

There will be fun for all ages... so bring your "wee ones" and your "not-so-wee ones." What a grand way to start the Christmas season!

---

*Niskanen, continued*

sell both wholesale and retail and is working on a web site ([www.Southern-Nordic-Outpost.com](http://www.Southern-Nordic-Outpost.com)) and a retail catalog. Her business name is "Southern Nordic Outpost" and e-mail is: [Info@Southern-Nordic-Outpost.com](mailto:Info@Southern-Nordic-Outpost.com)

I am hoping to have time this winter to complete my family history research and to improve my Finnish language skills. I will also have time to think about what I want to do when I grow up.

Thank you all for your past support with the Finnish business and with Finnish activities.

## Finn Grand Fest 2005 in Michigan

Canada and the US join to host Finn Grand Fest in the city of Marquette, Michigan, site of the largest FinnFest every in 1996. Northern Michigan University will provide most of the facilities for the festival. The city of Marquette is working with the organizers to plan for the parade down Third Street and for the Gala Festival Concert, which will be held in the city-owned Lakeview Arena.

Finnish composer Jukka Linkola is writing a work for orchestra and double bass that will have its world premiere at the Festival. The soloist will be UP native Evan Premo, a music student at the University of Michigan. Craig Johnson, conductor, and musician from Minneapolis is organizing the Gala Concert and other classical music events. There will be a *tori* (marketplace), of course, and the blue and white chairs will return, as will the world's largest sauna.

See the website at [www.finngrandfest2005.com](http://www.finngrandfest2005.com) for the latest information and updates, and to request registration information.

## Finnish Recipe of the Month

### Rice and Apple Porridge

#### Herkkupuuro

3 cups peeled, cored and chopped apples

4 cups water

2/3 cups rice

Cinnamon stick

1/4 cup sugar

1/8 teaspoon salt

Bring water to a boil and add the chopped apples, the rice and the cinnamon stick. Let simmer, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes. Remove the cinnamon stick and stir in the salt and the sugar. Serve with cream or milk.

*The Best of Finnish Cooking, by Taimi Previdi*

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

## Minnesota Tries out Finnish Snow Plows

Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport officials have struck a deal that will earn consulting fees and sales commissions from a Finnish company that wants to sell a new kind of snow plow to U.S. airports. The new plow is designed to operate around fragile runway and taxiway lights without breaking them. The equipment is made by Vammas OY and is distributed by Fortbrand Services, based in New York. Airport officials are unaware of any comparable US product. The wedged-shaped plow is open at the front to push snow away from lights without hitting them. It was evaluated at MSP last winter, and the staff recommended several design changes. Even so, it can save airport workers from shoveling out 3,600 lights and 300 signs at the airport. For trying out the snow plows and recommending them to other airports, the commission will receive compensation as well as the chance to buy the new plows at no markup. It also will be paid for expenses associated with trips to Vammas' factory in Finland.



### 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.

## Daniel Karvonen Joins Finlandia Foundation Board

Dan Karvonen, a teaching specialist in Finnish and Linguistics at the University of Minnesota, has been nominated as the Finlandia Foundation's newest trustee at the annual board meeting in Farmington Hills, Michigan. Dan, a fourth-generation Finnish American, has taught Beginning Finnish, Intermediate Finnish, Advanced Finnish, and Phonology at the University. He also earned his BA there, cum laude, in Finnish and Russian. He has also been a teacher and Finnish Credit Program Facilitator at the Salolampi Finnish Language camp in Bemidji and is on the Board of Directors of the Salolampi Foundation.

## Lahti Symphony Orchestra Visits Minnesota

In February 2004 the Minnesota Orchestra performed to a full house in Sibelius Hall, the beautiful concert home of the Lahti Symphony Orchestra, in Lahti, Finland. Now, the Minnesota Orchestra proudly welcomes the Lahti Symphony Orchestra for a concert in Orchestra Hall. The Lahti orchestra has become internationally renowned through its many award-winning recordings and will tour the United States in January 2005. Conducted by its music director, Osmo Vänskä, the Lahti Symphony will perform music of Jean Sibelius: Symphony No. 2 and No. 3, and Kalevi Aho: *The Rejoicing of the Deep Waters*. For more details or for tickets, see the website at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org), or call 612-371-5656 or 1-800-292-4141.

<b>Conversational Finnish Class</b>
<b>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.</b>

## Do You Know Any Finnish War Orphans?

Sue Saffle, writer and instructor at Virginia Tech, is interested in corresponding with former Finnish war children who would like to share their personal stories of the Winter and Continuation War. To contact her, please email ([gsaffle@vt.edu](mailto:gsaffle@vt.edu)) or write (107 Countryside Court, Blacksburg, VA, 24060).

## Finnish Eatery Unveils World's First Mobile Phone Restaurant Bill

Patrons at a cluster of restaurants in Kuopio, eastern Finland, can now pay for their meals with their mobile phones. This is a world first. However, one cannot pay for alcoholic drinks by mobile phone. The customer calls the number next to the item and a printer in the lobby prints a receipt. The bill will show up in the mobile phone invoice.

## Finnish Exhibit at American Swedish Institute

The Music room at the American Swedish Institute has been transformed into a colorful Finnish children's party. Many thanks go to contributors and designers Elina Ruppert of Finn Style, Sari Knutson of Saga Living, and Mary Westerberg, Judy Luchsinger, and Marlene Banttari. The Institute's Christmas exhibits feature all 5 Nordic countries and goes from November 6 to just after the new year. The American Swedish Institute is located at 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis. Call 612-871-4907 for more details.

<b>New Members</b>
Welcome to new FACA member:
 Denise Neisz, Coon Rapids
 Tervetuloa!

## Pieniä Paloja

Armi Koskinen Nelson highly recommends **Anita Smiley's Tour to Finland**, after having experienced one herself. Anita's next tour (which will be her 11<sup>th</sup>) will be July 5–20, 2005. Anita's Finnish cousin, Outi, will be the tour guide as the group visits Lappeenranta, the beautiful castle in Savonlinna, the rapids of Ruunaankoski, Rovaniemi (near the arctic circle), Kaustinen music festival, and of course, various sites of interest close to Helsinki (Eliel Saarinen's birthplace, a Fiskars factory, the famous Church in the Rock, museums, etc., etc). The tour leaves from Newark, New Jersey on an overnight SAS flight. For more information, you can reach Anita at (860) 889-7820, or e-mail [smileys.place@juno.com](mailto:smileys.place@juno.com),

Finland has a Lacrosse team! The team is called **Helsinki Lacrosse**. If you are interested in being a part of the team or sponsoring them in some way, they are in great need of sponsors and donated equipment. They also need assistant coaches and managers for the upcoming World Cup in London, Ontario, Canada in 2006. Last year Helsinki Lacrosse participated in the European newcomers tournament and won first place. This past summer they competed at the European Championships and finished 8<sup>th</sup> out of 12. For information or to help, contact Jaakko Savolahti at [jsavolah@cc.hut.fi](mailto:jsavolah@cc.hut.fi) or see their website at [www.helsinkilacrosse.tk/](http://www.helsinkilacrosse.tk/).

The new website, [www.minnesotafinnish.org](http://www.minnesotafinnish.org), is off to a great start, covering all types of organizations and groups that are related to Finland or Finnish culture, ranging from the Honorary Consul and heritage organizations to art groups. The web site also includes a monthly calendar on Finnish events in Minnesota. Minnesota Finnish Pages are maintained by the Finnish Language School of Minnesota, a voluntary organization that holds playful classes for children of all ages. The idea for the web site came from its current administrator, Jukka Kukkonen. If your Minnesotan organization or group has Finnish connections or roots, we invite you to submit your information to the Minnesota Finnish Pages. For a modest donation, sponsoring businesses may include their logos and contact information with links to their own web sites. To learn more, please call Risto Sivula at 651 489-8036.

## Future Calendar Events

**Jan. 25, 2005** Lahti Symphony Orchestra performs at Orchestra Hall directed by Osmo Vänskä, Sibelius' Symphony No. 2 and No. 3, and Kalevi Aho's *The Rejoicing of the Deep Waters*. For more details or for tickets, see the website at [www.minnesotaorchestra.org](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org), or call 612-371-5656 or 1-800-292-4141.

**Feb. 18–21, 2005** Finnish Family Fun Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji. Adults \$200, children \$75. See [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org).

**Apr. 14–16, 2005** Minnesota Orchestra, under the direction of Osmo Vänskä performs Sibelius's *Nightride and Sunrise*. Osmo will hold a question and answer session after the performance.

**May 8–14, 2005** Salolampi Finnish Language Village Spring Adult Week. See [www.salolampi.org](http://www.salolampi.org).

**Aug. 10–14, 2005** Finn Grand Fest in Marquette, Michigan. Joint Canadian-US Finnish festival. See [www.finngrandfest2005.com](http://www.finngrandfest2005.com). (See p. 5)

### Apple Cake Recipe

This recipe was served at the October FACA program. Thank you **Bette Ruskanen** and **Jane Olson**!

### Bulgarian Apple Cake

2 eggs  
1 ½ c. sugar  
¾ c. vegetable oil  
1 t. soda  
½ t. salt  
2 c. flour  
2 c. chopped, unpeeled red apples  
1 c. chopped nuts  
Beat together eggs, sugar, and oil. Sift flour, soda and salt. Add to first mixture and mix well. Stir in apples and nuts. Bake in a greased bundt pan at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Option: can drizzle with caramel sauce when serving.

### Another Finnish Website

Here is a great **website** for you Finnish fanatics: <http://etusivun.linkki.info/>. It is loaded with links to Finnish information, including a Finnish language course for foreigners. Some of the links are in Finnish, but many are in English.



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

**Nov. 19, Fri.** *Taste of Scandinavia* restaurant's Fall Feast, at 4:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. at both the Little Canada and the North Oaks locations. \$16.95 per person. Call 651-482-8876. (See p. 3 )

**Nov. 19, Fri.** FACA Monthly program at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul, at 7:30 p.m.. Barb Hanka, Jim Johnson, and their 2 children, Diana and Sergei, will present a varied program, "Remembering Finn Hall," that will feature music, poetry, commentary on Finnish culture, singing, and dancing. (See p.1)

**Nov. 29, Mon.** Finnish American classical pianist Craig Johnson performs at Southwest University in Marshall, MN at 7:30 p.m. For info email Craig at [musiccrj@visi.com](mailto:musiccrj@visi.com).

**Dec. 6, Mon.** Finlandia Foundation's Independence Day celebration. For details contact Marianne Wargelin at 612-374-2718.

**Dec. 11, Sat.** FACA's pikkujoulu celebration will be at 6:00 p.m. at the Roseville Skating Center. Soile Anderson's Deco Catering will provide the delicious  
*continued next column*

*Dec. 11, cont.*

Finnish Christmas dinner, and Pohjan Akat Finnish Women's ensemble will provide the entertainment and lead the group in some sing-alongs. For more details, contact Al Norgard at 651-786-5988 or email [norgard@winternet.com](mailto:norgard@winternet.com). (See p. 4 )

**Dec. 18, Sat.** *Kauneimmat Joululaulut*, a service of Finnish Christmas Carols, will be held at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1660 West County Road B (south of 36, between Snelling and Fairview) in Roseville. For more information, call 218-728-6439 or 651-633-8221. (See p. 3 )

**Dec. 25, Sat.** Hyvää Joulua!!!

**Dec. 27, Mon.** Deadline for January newsletter articles. Email event information, Finnish book reviews, Finnish news, Finnish concert and cultural event reviews, recipes, poems, etc. to Tiina Watts. Email pictures to Beth Jarvis. (See p. 2 for contact information)

**Jan. 1, Sat.** Onnellista Uutta Vuotta!!

**Jan. 21, Fri.** January FACA program.