

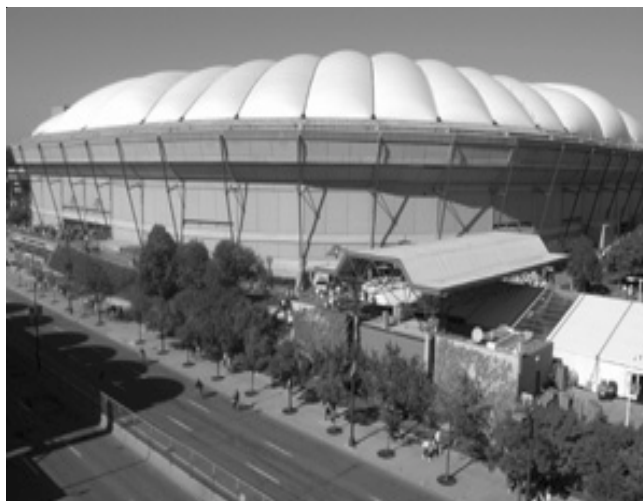
NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

November-December/Marraskuu-Joulukuu
2006

The Metrodome and Professional Sports

Presented by Steve Maki

The Metrodome and professional sports have been in the news and politics for many years. Come to the November program to hear about the history of the Metrodome and the Twins and the Vikings in Minnesota. Our presenter will be Steve Maki, the Director of Facilities and Engineering at the Metrodome. He will talk about the creation of the Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, legislative mandates, team agreements, and changing sports team economics. Steve will also talk about new stadium designs, the drive for new facilities, why teams are of value and the public/private conflicts and partnerships.



Steve is an American-Finn who grew up in Chisholm, Minnesota. He attended the University of Minnesota and received a BSME and a Masters in Business Administration there. He has been employed with the Metropolitan Sports Commission since 1985 and is currently the Director of Facilities and Engineering. He oversees the operation, maintenance, capital improvements, and major events of the Metrodome.

Come enjoy this program and the refreshments following.

NOVEMBER FACCA PROGRAM

**Metrodome
Steve Maki
November 17
7:30 p.m.**

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

*If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
at 612-374-2718*

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard



Pikkujoulu is almost here again. I hope you can make plans to attend this year and enjoy an evening of good food, music, and companionship. We are celebrating again this year in the Olympic Room at the Roseville Skating Center. Last year's dinner was a memorable evening and we hope to have the same picturesque winter skating scene as a backdrop for our dinner and program. The Sauna Bucket award is waiting for a new honoree and the Finn Hall band is again providing the entertainment. Look for the *Pikkujoulu* registration form in this newsletter and send it in early to make sure you get a spot before it sells out. Please feel welcome to invite other friends and family, too. If you need extra forms they are available on the FACA website, www.finnfaca.org, or contact one of the board members to have more sent to you. You can also make a copy of your blank forms.

Betsey and I were able to attend a wonderful Finnish worship service during the Leiv Ericksson Festival at Mindekirken the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church. This year's service featured the Saana Vocal Ensemble, Pastor Melvin Johnson, and Johanna Doty; and it was fun to hear the mixture of English, Norwegian, and Finnish languages and cultures. The Saana Ensemble sang two songs and their arrangement of Finlandia was so moving it brought chills to your spine. Johanna's solos were songs from the "Pelimanni" tradition. I noticed a lot of smiles and knowing looks in the congregation that told me the music was appreciated by both Finns and Norwegians. I enjoyed the challenge of trying to sing in Norwegian and I always like to hear Finnish during the service. This festival is a good example of how we Finns can increase our exposure outside of our own community, and I heard a lot of compliments at the coffee hour afterwards.

I'm happy to see that many of you are choosing to get this newsletter via email. It will help us control some costs and also get all the news and information to you in a timely manner. Our website will be changing a little in the near future when we are included in the Minnesota Finnish pages website (www.minnesotafinnish.org). This move should help us get some more exposure to people interested in Finland and Finnish events. The website is still under construction, and in the meantime www.finnfaca.org will remain as our site. Remember, we are still looking for a newsletter editor/committee, so please contact a board member or Tiina Watts if you are interested.

See you at the next program and hopefully at the *Pikkujoulu* celebration!



Introducing the Twin Cities Finnish Network

By *Betsey Norgard*

Minneapolis and St. Paul contain the highest urban population of Finns in America. The Twin Cities alone host more than 20 organizations, businesses, and institutions that are related to Finland and Finnish culture. Earlier this year, conversations began among members of some of the various Finnish-related groups about the desire to better understand the entire Finnish community and to work together more closely.

The Twin Cities Finnish Network was proposed as the central project of the Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities chapter. The chapter suggested that it could be of service to help all groups collaborate, learn from each other, and coordinate activities.

The first major initiative of the network is Celebrate Finland: 2007, a yearlong project to highlight activities of the Twin Cities Finnish organizations and to raise the visibility of the Finnish community in the general public. The year will culminate in a special celebration of Finland's Independence Day in December, marking the 90th anniversary of Finnish independence.

In the next few weeks organizations will be contacted, requesting information to compile a directory of the Finnish community and to invite them to participate in the network and the year-long project. Some of the 2007 calendar activities will be the normal, regular activities of the various organizations, such as FACA's *Pikkujoulu* celebration. Some new events will be proposed, and some ongoing, long-term projects will get underway.

Information about the Twin Cities Finnish Network and Celebrate Finland: 2007 is available at www.minnesotafinnish.org, a website for the Finnish community administered by Minnesotan Suomikoulu. For further information about the network, contact Betsey Norgard, coordinator, at norgard@winternet.com or 651-786-5988.

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

Board Notes

By *Luella Zibell*

The October Board Meeting centered on future activities: our participation in the Festival of Nations, upcoming programs, and Finnish events in our area.

Finalizing details for our Pikkujoulu celebration included menu, decorations, etc.

A report on our visit with the Metsälehti tour group, along with the treasurer's and secretary's reports were received.

Production of our newsletter was an important agenda item as well. We plan to have this in order for the January issue. We seek input from our membership to find an editor or editorial committee.

Independence Day Celebration

Finland is commemorating its 89th birthday on Wednesday, December 6th. This year the Twin Cities commemoration will feature a reception and an outdoor plaza lit with candles. Welcome anytime between 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Eliel Saarinen-designed church, Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave S, Minneapolis. Coffee and treats (savory and sweet) will be provided. The Singing Strings led by Helinä Pakola will perform at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is provided. After the Singing Strings perform, a toast to Finland with the singing of the Finnish national anthem will occur. Jukka Kukkonen promises video tape to watch from this year's President's Independence Ball in Helsinki. A \$5 donation is suggested for adults. All are welcome! And....national costumes are always welcome on this day.

Welcome New Members!

E.A. Boos of Minneapolis
David and Joanne Karvonen of St. Paul
Ellen Lehto Little of West Fargo, ND
Ruth Ann Marks of St. Paul

Tervetuloa!

Finnish Foreign Policy

Presented by Mika Aaltola

Review by Floyd Niskanen

The October program was a presentation about Finnish foreign policy by Dr. Mika Aaltola, the visiting professor of Finnish Studies at the U of M. He is a professor of international relations at the University of Tampere, Finland. He has also published a book on Finnish foreign policy.

After his introduction about how people relate to things such as the weather, environment, and that Finns and American Finns have common interests, he talked about the country's borders and how the borders have strong historical meaning and that maps tell a story. Maps are alive and they change, for example, when Finland lost land in the wars, especially the Winter War. He also talked about how the balance of power between the 3 large powers—Germany, Sweden and Russia—have affected the small power (Finland) next to them.

Dr. Aaltola went back in history and talked about the formation of the Finnish state during the Russian Czar Alexander II. He was respected and his statue is in Senate Square in front of the State Church of Finland. Finland is a country of “rule of law” and Russia is not, so when Finland was losing its freedoms with the later Czars, the Finns had to turn to art and coded words to show their feelings and expressions. There became a common “Finnish Creed” comparable to religion. It was like a game of identity, not political power.

After the wars, President Paasikivi (1946-1956) based his policy on the “tunnustus” (acknowledgment) of facts, especially in the physical sense. There was a need to recognize the interests of Russia. President Kekkonen (1956-1982) had his policy of “rinnakkaiselo” (coexistence), and now President Halonen's policy is non-alliance and independent defense, with Finland and Russia on equal terms.

Finland is a member of the EU now and holds the rotating presidency of that body. Finland does things in an efficient manner and hopes to pass this on to the EU. It is concerned about the human rights problems in Russia, but it has to consider that Russia provides most of the gas and oil to the European countries. Forty-six percent of the Finns are suspicious of President Putin in Russia. There are questions about Finland joining NATO, especially now that Sweden may join. It's a problem because neutral countries

don't think military groups are necessary. Finland thinks it can provide something to the world and it tends to be more objective—it can be a mediator, it can connect people, but from a distance.

After the presentation, Dr Aaltola answered questions for a few minutes. He continued answering questions during the refreshment time.

Book Review

A Sociological Survey of The Finnish Settlement of New York Mills, Minnesota and Its Adjacent Territory, Revised, by Ralph Henry Smith, compiled by Darrel G. Nicholson.

Review by Ivy Nevala, published in the *New World Finn*, April–June 2006.

In addition to the wealth of sociological information in this survey of Minnesota's “Finnish Triangle,” there's an additional story connected to Ralph Smith's 1933 master's thesis. Darrel Nicholson, while project director for the Finn Creek outdoor museum, heard Smith's thesis referred to as that “Communist Book.” He obtained an unabridged copy of the thesis from Russ Parta, publisher of the *New York Mills Herald* and *Amerikan Uutiset*, and discovered that some chapters were missing from the thesis submitted to the University of Southern California. These missing pages included letters from former residents who had moved to Karelia and a chapter of the thesis entitled “The Psychology of the Community.” Why were they excluded? Were they considered too political or just unimportant to the theme of the thesis?

Smith's work provides a snapshot of the economic, cultural, religious, political, recreational, and health conditions of the Finns in the “Triangle.” He reports on the Great Depression, Karielian Fever, the split in the cooperative movement, and Prohibition—much of his information obtained by interviews.

Profits from the sale of the book will go to the Timo Riippa Fund for Finnish American Studies at the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. The book, which retails for \$20, is available from Snellington Press, P.O. Box 6553, Minneapolis, MN 55406. Add \$2.07 for postage.

My Experience at Finnish Language Camp

By Nancy Jappe

My dad was a full-blooded Finn whose Finnish great-grandparents came across the seas to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan (Calumet to be exact) because of jobs in the copper mines. When work there became scarce, Dad's parents moved to Duluth, where he was born. What is still a mystery to me is why my dad's children didn't grow up with a real sense of our Finnish heritage. No Finnish was ever spoken within our hearing. My grandmother, with whom I was very close as a child, never mentioned anything about her ancestry, and my grandfather died when I was 10 years old.

In this latter-day attempt to bridge the gap, I signed up for a weeklong Finnish language camp at Salolampi Village, offered by Concordia College on its property near Bemidji, Minnesota, September 9–15, 2006. Retired Burnett County Clerk Helen Steffen, a full-blooded Finn, had been telling me about this camp for many years. This year I decided to see what she was talking about. I convinced my Finnish friend, Kerin Jackson, to go along with us, too. Before Sept. 9, I knew no words in Finnish—not even one. No, I have to correct that. In one of her emails, Helen started with “*hei, hei,*” a greeting the Finnish people use with one another.

Salolampi Village and four other Concordia language villages sit on an 800-acre piece of lakeshore that the college bought in 1960 for \$16,000. The other villages are: Norwegian, Spanish, German and French. Each village is set up to replicate the feel of its country in its buildings, interiors and surrounding property. Our Finnish village's main building was patterned after a railroad station in a town in Finland. Concordia provides instruction in 14 languages, the latest being Arabic.

For the whole week, we were offered information on Finland, its language, culture, people and food. Imagine having herring, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, pickled beets, sliced coldcuts and Swiss cheese, in addition to hot and cold cereals for breakfast! We ate lots of breads flavored with cardamom and eaten without butter (called *pulla*), during the many coffee breaks. (The Finnish claim they are the biggest coffee-drinking country in the world.)

Language classes were on the schedule three times a day. As you might expect, I was in the most basic level, what we called prekindergarten. I learned

common greetings, how to count from 1 to 10, basic phrases and most important, “*En puhu suomea,*” “I don't speak Finnish.” I learned that you never say “*sahna*” when referring to the well-known Finnish bath. The word is properly pronounced “*sowna.*” The daily sauna was an important part of the week's activities, except for the last night. On that night, the sauna wasn't heated up because of a burning ban and the dry conditions in the area. All the activities during the week awakened my interest in this part of my heritage. I came away with resources to use for further study in the hope of making a trip to Finland some day.

You, too, regardless of your ancestral background, can take advantage of this same opportunity. Concordia College offers a wide variety of programming throughout the year for children up to Elder-hostelers. Parents and grandparents send their grandchildren to language camp in Bemidji for one, two or four-week sessions in the summer. There are family weekends and adult sessions at different times during the year, depending on the language. For some sessions, like the one I went to, the use of English is allowed. In others, there is total immersion in the language for the entire session, however long that goes. The Web site for more information on the Concordia language camps is www.concordialanguagevillages.org.

On the way into camp the first day, Kerin and I looked at each other with the same thought in our minds—“What are we doing? Should we turn around and go home?” We really had no idea what to expect. When we left at the end of the week, we were thinking—“Hey, that was fun. Let's do it again next year... and bring our sisters along with us!”



The FACA Newsletter Goes High Tech

By *Andreas Ostenso*

As many of you already know, the FACA Newsletter now comes in electronic format. Indeed, this will be the second month that the newsletter will be distributed via email. The October Newsletter was sent out electronically to 22 people without a hitch. The mailing list for November will grow to some 40 members. As treasurer, and speaking on behalf of the Board, I encourage all members to consider e-delivery and perhaps even switching away from snail mail completely. Electronic delivery offers numerous advantages:

Timeliness. You will likely receive your newsletter a week before the paper version arrives.

Convenience. The newsletter is always just a couple clicks away, whether you are at home or work.

Easy access. The newsletter will come in PDF format and can be read with Adobe Acrobat or Apple Preview. The file size will be around 330k.

Flexibility. Just click on print, and you will get a hard copy which is virtually identical to the paper version

It tastes better. Well, no not really. However, there is a chance that we could fend off inflationary pressure to raise the *Pikkujoulu* meal price; further delay a rise in dues and provide more Salolampi scholarships. While electronic delivery is practically free, printing and delivery of a single newsletter via the USPS costs about \$1.40. That's a lot of dough, or *pulla*, as the case may be.

The Board does not envision eliminating the paper version of the newsletter as it is an important benefit of membership. Every dues-paying member is entitled to a copy, whether it be electronic or paper. However, I do encourage everyone to consider electronic delivery. If you decide to give it a try, send me (tostenso@yahoo.com) a message with your email address. You will then receive the electronic version in addition to the paper version. If for any reason you don't care to continue receiving the electronic version, just let me know and I will take you off the list. If, on the other hand, you find yourself forgetting to check the mail for the next FACA Newsletter, I can take you off our snail mail list so that you only receive the PDF version.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Feel free to contact me at tostenso@yahoo.com, by phone at 6514285258 or talk to me at the next monthly program.

Classical Music as a Deterrent

According to an article in the *Helsingin Sanomat* by Irja Hyvärinen, classical music is being used to drive away youngsters from loitering at the back entrance of the Koskikeskus Shopping Center in Tampere, and now at a mall in Lohja.

Vandalism, littering, and breaking of windows had become such a problem, that the residents were desperate to try any tactic. The idea was offered up by the local police. One of the entrances to the shoppers' paradise is covered and sheltered from the wind, and it gathers groups of young people who hang around and tend to intimidate the adults.

The shopping center listened to the police advice, which was based on experiences in the United States, and it did the trick. There have also been successful case studies reported from the UK. Classical music has been played already for ten years to discourage loitering at the back entrance of the Koskikeskus Shopping Centre in Tampere.

During renovation work recently, the effect of the music in Koskikeskus was bench-tested. When the radio was switched off for a while, groups of youths began to congregate again.

Conversational Finnish Class

Tuesdays
4:30 to 6:00 p.m.
St. Anthony Library
Corner of Como and
Carter Ave. in St. Paul
Everyone is welcome.
For more information,
please call Floyd Niskanen
at 763-540-0121.

Pieniä Paloja

• A huge thank-you to our hospitality people for last month's program: **Kaarina Kotkavuori, Delores Salin, Kathy Jackson, MerryAlice Jones, and Clyde and Theresa Lund.** The refreshments were plentiful and delicious!

Calendar-continued

Dec. 9, Sat. FACA's Annual *Pikkujoulu* party at the Roseville Skating Center beginning at 5:30 p.m.. Entertainment by Finn Hall, the reading of the Christmas story in Finnish, socializing, a *tori* (marketplace), singing of Finnish carols, the Sauna Bucket award, and, of course, plenty of delicious Finnish Christmas food for dinner. See insert in this issue for information, or call or email Al Norgard at 651-786-5988 or norgard@winternet.com.

Dec. 16, Sat. *Kauneimmat joululaulut* (a Finnish Christmas worship service with Finnish music and singing) will be held at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, County Rd. B in Roseville.

Dec. 20, Wed. Copy deadline for January newsletter. Send articles, news items and event information for the next few months to Tiina Watts and email pictures to Beth Jarvis. See page 2 for contact information.

Jan. 8, Mon. Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society's Annual meeting, at 6:30 p.m. at Temperance Corner Hall in the Centennial Room, Temperance Corners (3 miles north of Hwy. 12 on Co. Rd. 3), Cokato, Minnesota.. Participate in the election of officers and trustees, and help plan programs for 2007. The Finnish New Year's custom of melting tin will begin at 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. If you have questions, see www.cokato.mn.us/cmhs/fahs.html or call Harvey Barberg at 320-286-5823.

Jan. 19, Fri. January FACA program at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul at 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 19-20, 2007 Finn Hall will be playing at various times during the Heikinpäivä Celebration in Upper Michigan (Hancock, Houghton area).. Check for updated information at cityof Hancock.com.

Jan. 27, Sat. Annual Nordic Ball at Sokol Hall, located above the Glockenspiel Deli, 383 Michigan St, St. Paul from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m., with a grand march at 7:30 p.m. Finn Hall and other Nordic groups will be performing. See sokolmn.org for more information.

Feb. 1-3 Osmo Vänskä conducts the Minnesota Orchestra as it plays Sibelius' *Nightride and Sunrise*, Symphony No. 5, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 4. For tickets or information, call 612-371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

Feb. 8-10 Osmo Vänskä conducts the Minnesota Orchestra as it plays Sibelius' *In Memoriam* and Symphony No. 4 and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5. For tickets or information, call 612-371-5642 or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

Feb. 16-19, 2007 Bring your whole family and enjoy the Finnish Family Weekend at the picturesque Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Learn some Finnish, sing Finnish songs, eat lots of Finnish food, enjoy the sauna by the frozen lake (rolling in the snow optional), weave a small rug and make other Finnish crafts, go snowshoeing, sledding and cross-country skiing (bring your own sleds and skis) and learn about Finnish culture. See www.salolampi.org or call 1-800-450-2214.

July 26-28, 2007 Finnfest USA 2007 at Ashtabula, Ohio, with the theme: "A Great Lake; A Great Heritage." See www.finnfest2007.org for information and to register.



Salolampi scene



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

Nov. 4–Jan. 14 Experience “A Nordic Christmas” at the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave. Minneapolis. This exhibit highlights Christmas traditions of Iceland, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden with decorated Christmas rooms. More information: www.americanswedishinst.org (612) 871-4907.

Nov. 17, Fri. November FACA program featuring Steve Maki, the Director of Facilities and Engineering at the Metrodome at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. Call any board member for details. (See p. 1)

Nov 26, Sun. Finn Hall and friends, including Diane Jarvi, Kip Peltoniemi, and vocal group Saana, will be playing for the Sunday Dance at the Cedar Cultural Center. A Finnish tango lesson will be provided before the dance. Admission price and start times to be announced. Visit www.thecedar.org for more information or contact Ralph Tuttila at raulit@msn.com.

Dec. 6, Wed. Finnish Independence Day Celebration from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave S, Minneapolis. There will be a reception and an outdoor plaza lit with candles,

as well as music and a program. Coffee and treats will be provided. Childcare is provided. A \$5 donation is suggested for adults. For more information, contact Marianne Wargelin at 612-374-2718 or KMWargelin@worldnet.att.net. (See p. 3)

Dec 8, Fri. Finn Hall will play at Kramarczuk’s Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. Great food and dance space, \$2 cover charge. Contact Ralph Tuttila at raulit@msn.com or Kramarczuk’s at 612-379-3018 for more info.

Dec. 8–10 The *Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality* presents: *Blessing ~ A Winter Solstice Experience* ~ at 7:00 p.m. at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave., St. Paul. Join Jaime Meyer for an evening of theater, drumming, Nordic melodies, and story-telling—culminating in a powerful shamanic ceremony. Inspired by the mythology of the indigenous people of Sámiland, Finland, and Norway. The cost is \$20 and seats are limited. Please indicate performance date at registration. (Drums are provided, or bring your own.) Register at www.wisdomwayscenter.org or call 651-696-2788. (*More calendar items, p. 7*)