

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

November-December/Marraskuu-Joulukuu 2008

Miriam, Daughter of Finnish Immigrants

Diane Dettmann

Our November speaker will be Diane Dettmann, who will read selections from and speak about the book she wrote with her aunt Miriam Dloniak: *Miriam, Daughter of Finnish Immigrants*. Miriam Kaurala Dloniak was born in 1919, the third of seven children. Her father, Paul (Paavo) Kaurala, was born in Kiuruvesi, Finland. He immigrated to America in 1913, and eventually settled in Ely. Miriam's mother, Hilja Lukkarila, was born in Simo, Finland, and came to America in 1909. She married Paavo Kaurala in 1913.



Miriam left the family farm in 1939 and attended the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1941. As World War II began, Miriam enlisted in the Women's Army Corps. She eventually settled in Pennsylvania. Miriam started writing her childhood memories in the late 1980s. She wanted to have a written "history" of the Kaurala family—so that future generations would know about their roots and how her parents struggled to give their family the bare necessities of life.

In 1991, while in a Master's program at Hamline, Diane Dettmann interviewed Miriam for a story that was published in the *Hamline Education Journal*. Diane and Miriam continued to collaborate, and their project turned into a book, published in 1995 by Sampo Publishing. This book is now reprinted in memory of Miriam, and issued by Outskirts Press. Diane will share with us this adventure of a heritage preserved.

NOVEMBER FACCA PROGRAM

Miriam

Friday, November 21

7:30 p.m.

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

If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin

at 612-374-2718

Diane Dettmann grew up in north Minneapolis and New Brighton, and earned her BS degree from the University of Minnesota. She taught in the St. Paul schools from 1969 to 2006. Diane describes herself as "a writer, teacher, and a dreamer." She lives with her husband, Allan, in Afton, Minnesota, where she spends her time writing and pursuing her dreams.

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President's Message

by *Kaarina Kotkavuori*

Thank you to Susan Harstad for providing an interesting October program. She shared a lot about *Marimekko* designers. It was wonderful that FinnStyle provided *Marimekko* textiles, so we could see the real thing as well.



I thank everyone who participated in our *Salolampi* fundraiser. FinnStyle and FinnSisu provided a good selection of Finnish-made items. I had a good time going to FinnSisu at Ahvo Taipale's invitation to pick out the sauna items for the *tori*. We also sold music CD's from Craig Johnson, Diane Jarvi, Finn Hall and Third Generation and handmade crafts provided by Stella Arola, Edith Boos, George Valo and Delores and Dan Salin. Junelle Bernard, Jeanne Swope and I contributed baked goods. A fundraiser is not a success unless people purchase items from the *tori*. Thank you for shopping and supporting the fundraiser.

FACA is planning to print a membership list. The list will only be available as a paper copy and will be ready to be passed out at the monthly program in March. This will give time for members to contact me if they do not want their addresses or phone numbers to be included.

We are seeking two new members for the board next year. This is my third year on the board and I will complete my term in May. Please let one of the board members know if you are considering volunteering.

We have a new opportunity to watch current Finnish films with English subtitles. I attended the October movie and look forward to seeing the November film. I have seen the preview, which is about the gold rush in Finland, and it looks like it will be very enjoyable. (Ed. note: See pg. 3 for more information.)

The plans for *Pikkujuolu* are well on the way. We are delighted to be having the event at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis, on Saturday, December 6. We continue to have the pleasure of having Soile Anderson cater our meal. This celebration of *Pikkujuolu* is a joyful event. Please plan on attending and invite family and friends. Let us enjoy the Christmas season together.

Welcome to the November program. Please come, pour yourself a cup of coffee, talk to friends and then enjoy listening to Diane Dettmann. I look forward to visiting with you.

Get the FACA newsletter electronically!

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

Ahtisaari wins Nobel Prize

Martti Ahtisaari, the former president of Finland, is the 2008 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize. Ahtisaari's achievements range from helping end apartheid South Africa's control of Namibia and steering the country to independence, to last February's declaration of independence by the former Yugoslav province of Kosovo.

"Ahtisaari is an outstanding international mediator," said the Nobel committee citation. "Through his untiring efforts and good results he has shown what role mediation of various kinds can play in the resolution of international conflicts. Throughout all his adult life Ahtisaari has worked for peace and reconciliation." Ahtisaari served for a six-year term as president of Finland beginning in 1994.

Finnish Culture Through Movies

Finnish Culture Through Movies study group is a new offering from the Finnish Language School of Minnesota located at the Christ Church Lutheran. The 3rd Sunday of each month, until May, the group gets together to watch a Finnish movie with English subtitles and have a conversation about it afterwards. Season tuition is \$25 / \$15 for students. For more information and a list of showings contact (651) 428-3155 or www.minnesotafinnish.org.

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
Floyd Niskanen at 763-540-0121.

Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



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

The Board met at the home of our president, Kaarina Kotkavuori, on October 14th.

The secretary's minutes and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

It was suggested that an up-to-date membership list be compiled, and it has been completed.

Our *Pikkujoulu* celebration and dinner will be held at Christ Church Lutheran on December 6th. Soile Anderson will again cater the meal. Various issues such as price of the tickets, entertainment, hiring of a Santa, volunteers needed, and a possible raffle are being worked on. The invitations will be enclosed with the November *Utiset*.

Our new program chair, Jeanne Swope, has a number of programs lined up.

The next board meeting will be on November 18th at the home of Andreas Ostenso.

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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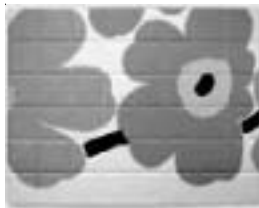
The Colorful World of *Marimekko*

By Jeanne Swope

The October 17th program began with an opportunity to view film trailers from “Finnish Culture through Movies” and a *tori* (market) featuring Finnish and Finnish-American crafts, baked goods, and music.

Our speaker was Susan Harstad of FinnStyle. Susan began her study of things Finnish and Nordic with a scholarship to *Salolampi*. She has an art history degree from Gustavus Adolphus, a B.S. in art education from Mankato State University, and an M.A. in art history from St. Thomas. She has spoken on aspects of Scandinavian design before; this time she concentrated on the history of *Marimekko* design.

Her talk began with a 1950s picture of designer Maija Isola wearing the *jokapoika*—her shirt for every boy and everyone else as well. This illustrated the direction the company was about to take: vibrant designs with practical use intended to bring a striking new look to everyday life. Susan took us through the design and business history of *Marimekko*, illustrating her talk with slides of famous designers, bright, unique fabrics, and the products created to use the fabrics.



In the early days Isola’s lively, light fabrics and clothing designs brought the eyes of the world to *Marimekko*. Her fabric *Unikko* (large poppies most familiar in its bright red/orange/white/pink

palette) has been around since the early 1960s.

Some highlights were: slides showing the effort in the early 1970s to put together an entire “*Marimekko* lifestyle”—a concept of design pervading a complete village environment for *Marimekko* workers; Finnish schoolchildren dressed in *Marimekko* (including socks!); a wide range of products from bedding to walking sticks. In the 1980s, the company fell on hard financial times. The leadership of Kirsi Pakonen is credited with giving new vision and direction to *Marimekko*.

Susan focused on several other major designers and their work: Maija Isola’s daughter Kristina Isola; Fujiwo Ishimoto, who moved to Finland from Japan to work in this design world; Maija Louekari, creator

Kaiku (Echo) and Teresa Morehouse, creator of one of this year’s new fabrics, *Sininen Gepardi* (Blue Cheetah.)

Each year new designs appear and old designs are selectively reissued, often appearing in new colors. Susan displayed slides of workers inking screens for printing on the giant roles of white cotton fabric. After a fabric designer has finished a work, product designers create objects that use the fabrics. Interestingly, when a new design is ready to enter the inventory, it is put up in the company coffee area, where designers discuss and vote over breaks to give it a name. Names are in Finnish, and either describe the item literally (*Jääkarhu*, ice bear or polar bear), or describe a feeling that the design invokes—*Kaiku*, meaning echo, depicts a birch tree (*koivu*).



After Susan’s presentation, the FACA membership enjoyed coffee, conversation, and more *tori* shopping.

Salolampi Scholarships

FACA offers scholarships of \$100 to one-week villagers and \$200 to two-week villagers who are children or relatives of FACA members. Request information and application form from Kathleen Jackson, 3225 Century Av. S., Woodbury, MN 55125; (651)739-3102. Application deadline: March 10. For additional scholarship availability check out www.salolampi.org

Welcome New Members!

**Steve and Elaine Machovsky of
Burnsville, MN.**

Tervetuloa!

Osmo Vänskä, Receives Honorary Degree

The University of Minnesota School of Music conferred an honorary degree upon Minnesota Orchestra Music Director Osmo Vänskä on October 18, at the U of M School of Music's Collage Concert at Ted Mann Concert Hall. The Collage Concert featured Vänskä conducting the University of Minnesota Symphony Orchestra and Combined Choirs. The Doctor of Humane Letters is the highest award conferred by the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, recognizing individuals who have achieved acknowledged eminence in their field.

New School of Music Director David Myers said, "The School of Music Collage Concert is our annual gift to the Twin Cities community and holding this honorary degree ceremony at the concert is a fitting tribute to Maestro Vänskä, who has dedicated his life to music education and has infused his singular spirit into the cultural life of Minnesota. This exciting event allowed the University and the Twin Cities music community the opportunity to publicly thank Maestro Vänskä for his many contributions. And yes, Finlandia is featured on the concert program!"

"I am simply grateful and humbled by this news from the University of Minnesota," said Music Director Osmo Vänskä. "It will be my great privilege to accept this generous honor, and I look forward to my upcoming work with the School of Music students."

Finnish conductor Osmo Vänskä became the Minnesota Orchestra's tenth music director in September 2003. Praised for his intense and dynamic performances, Vänskä is recognized for compelling interpretations of the standard, contemporary and Nordic repertoires, as well as the close rapport he establishes with the musicians he leads. He has recorded the complete Beethoven symphonies with the Orchestra for the Swedish BIS label, with each album in the five-disc project receiving superlative reviews and the recording of the Ninth Symphony receiving a Grammy nomination. As a guest conductor, he appears with the world's finest orchestras. Vänskä has extended his tenure with the Minnesota Orchestra through 2011.

The Minnesota Orchestra is recognized as one of America's leading symphony orchestras. Founded in 1903, it offers nearly 200 concerts each year, with 400,000 attending, and reaches hundreds of thousands more through its award-winning series of radio broadcasts and its vast collection of recordings. The Orchestra makes its home at Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis.

Established in 1902, the School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 600 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of over 50 artists, scholars and teachers. Thanks to strong partnerships with the Twin Cities music community, another 40 professionals from organizations like the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra enrich the learning environment as adjunct faculty.

Finnish Christmas Recipe Piparkakut (Gingerbread Cookies)

3 dl (1.5 c) sugar
2 dl (1 c) syrup (molasses)
1 Tbs cinnamon
1 Tbs ginger
1 Tbs ground cloves
2 tsp baking soda
2 dl (1 c) cream or full milk
100 g (3.5 oz) butter or margarine
2 tsp salt
700 g (1.5 lb) flour

Mix the soda into the milk. Combine the remaining ingredients, including the milk-soda mixture. Mix well, adding flour if the dough seems to stick. Form a ball and place in a plastic bag or a covered bowl and let stand overnight.

Cut into three or four sections. One at a time, roll out into a fairly thin round with a rolling pin, using extra flour if the dough sticks. With cookie cutters, such as star, crescent moon, Santa, angel, etc., cut shapes and bake in a 200°C (400°F) oven for about 7-10 minutes, or until golden brown on the bottom. Cool flat.

Decorate with frosting, such as CakeMate tubes, or make your own favorite frosting. Let dry overnight. Store in an airtight container.

From: <http://www.kaiku.com/kutriskitchen.html>

Christmas in Finland

In late October, shops in Finland begin to remind everyone that Christmas is just around the corner. The official season begins with the start of Advent. Finally it is Christmas Eve, December 24. At mid-day the “National Declaration of Christmas Peace” is read by the Mayor of Turku. It is a tradition that has been around since medieval times, but these days it is also broadcast on radio and television. The sentiment of peace is maintained in the Christmas greeting *Rauhallista Joulua*.

During the day the sauna is heating, the fir tree is decorated, a traditional Christmas dinner is prepared and Christmas presents are given and received. Children anxiously wait for a visit from Santa, better known as *Joulupukki*, to arrive from his home in Rovaniemi on the Arctic Circle.

Church services are held all over the country and families spend their time rejoicing and singing Christmas carols. Those who have passed away are remembered with wreaths, while candles glow in the darkness of the cemeteries.

The day after Christmas is Boxing Day. *Tapaninpäivä* is a day when families visit friends and relatives and spend time outdoors skating, skiing and sledding. Traditionally, the day included a sleigh ride; and if you are one of the lucky ones, that tradition still continues today.

The New Years Eve celebration is traditionally a more boisterous event. Fireworks displays can be seen throughout the countryside. Meals often consist of a buffet table. At midnight, sparkling wines and champagnes are opened, and folks wish each other Happy New Year or *Hyvää Uuttavuotta*.

As Finnish tradition goes, I'd like to wish you a *Rauhallista Joulua, Hyvää Uuttavuotta!*



What's Your *Sisu*?

By Mary Belanger

My son, Jacob, and I now end all our telephone calls to each other with one word. *Sisu*. It began several months ago when he went back to California after spending his ten-day leave at home following Marine boot camp. He was having a bad week and called me for some moral support. Jacob was having trouble adjusting to all things military. We spoke for awhile, but it didn't seem like I was really getting through to him. Finally I said, “Jacob, you're of Finnish heritage, you have *sisu*! You have the determination, and the strength to make it! I've seen your determination show in soccer tournaments when you've been behind and time was running out or your team has been a man down. I know you don't give up, you continue to give it all you've got.” Jacob has continued on—continued to persevere and I'm proud of him. As he is deployed overseas early next year, his *sisu* will travel with him.

We all have times that we call upon our own *sisu*. I found mine a few years ago when I lost my job due to budget cuts. I claimed a new position in the Cities, but that meant I had to travel and be away from my husband and three teenagers during the week. Every Monday, I'd leave my home in Brainerd and sometimes cry until I was as far down the road as Little Falls. By then, I'd begin to think about work and the week ahead. I couldn't wait to get back on Thursday nights to be with my family. The stress of a new job and being an absent wife and mother made me feel like I wasn't doing a good job at anything. To me *sisu* is doing what must be done, determination even in adverse conditions, finding the strength to carry you through. I made it through those first tough years. We all adjusted, my children graduated and moved away; and now I spend time with my husband and cat on weekends.

If you were to Google the word *sisu*, you would find not only various descriptions and definitions, but the word is also used by various Finnish brands. How does a *Sisu* truck sound? What about an armored vehicle? Mount *Sisu* is located in the Antarctic. Bumper stickers display the word on many of the vehicles found in the Upper Midwest. There's lots of *sisu* out there!

What does *sisu* mean to you?

Pieniä Paloja

- *Kiitos* to October servers!!
- Our deepest sympathy to Betsey and Alan Norgard for the passing of Betsy's father, William A. Robbins, on Oct. 17. A memorial service was held November. 1 in Roseville.
- The Finnish animated feature, *Nico and the Way to the Stars*, won both the main prize and the audience prize at the Cinekid International film, television and new media festival for children and young people held in The Netherlands recently.
- One in three Finns suffers from sleep deprivation or from intermittent sleep several times a week the phenomenon is attributable to changes in working life—increasingly long and more irregular working hours.
- Postal services in small rural communities are disappearing. Most post offices are these days run by outside entrepreneurs. They are usually linked with food stores and increasing numbers of shopkeepers have been deciding that doubling as a post office is not worth the bother.
- Made in Finland? An increasing number of Lap-pish souvenirs are made in China. However, articles made of wood are usually manufactured in Finland.
- Will the Finns finally join NATO? Many are worried about how the Russians would react, as Russia is an important trading partner for 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!

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
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Name _____

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

More Calendar Items (from pg 8)

Road to Finland's Independence, 1809–1917. 7:30 p.m. Introduction of three student representatives to Salo Youth Conference and Wayne Terry, followed by Membership/Fundraising Appeal. 7:40 p.m. Performance by Diane Jarvi. 8:10 p.m. Social with Finnish holiday treats and refreshments.

Dec. 17-18 A Scandinavian Christmas with the Minneapolis Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. Very special Yuletide celebration; a winter bouquet of Scandinavia's most beautiful Christmas songs, plus lovely seasonal selections by Schubert, Sibelius, Humperdinck and Grieg. It may be cold and dark outside, but inside—*God Jul!*—a warm welcome awaits. The wreaths will be hung, the Hall will be aglow with the magic of Santa Lucia, complete with a candlelight procession . . . a feast of sweet surprises. Ticket prices vary.

www.minnesotaorchestra.org

Dec. 20 Service of Finnish Christmas carols, 3:00 p.m. A celebration with choirs, instrumental music, readings and refreshments. Free will offering to benefit children's ministry in Karelian Russia, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1660 W. Co. Rd. B (south of 36 between Snelling and Fairview), Roseville. More information (651)501-8892 (651)633-8221.

Dec. 27 Copy deadline for January *Utiset*. Send to mary.belanger@dctc.edu

Jan. 16-18 *Heikki Lunta* Winterfest, Negaunee, Mich. For more information: www.negauneeirontown.com/winterfest.htm

Jan. 24-25 *Heikinpäivä* Celebration, Hancock, Mich. www.pasty.com/heikki/sched.html

Feb 16-19 Finnish Family Fun Weekend. www.salolampi.org

May 17-24 FinnFest USA 2009 Cruise North to Alaska! Join fellow Finns on this elegant cruise ship sailing through Alaska's stunning Inside Passage. (800)848-7120 www.finnfestUSA2009.com

Amber

The air has turned cold and the leaves have fallen,
Nights are long and the fire keeps us warm.
Pumpkins, squash, cider and mittens,
Whistling winds and howling trees.
Owl's silhouette into the amber moon light
As we prepare for harvest knowing winter is near
We go to bed hiding under warm quilts,
Dreaming of the first blanket of snow to come.

—Erin Belanger



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

Sept 14-Jan. 4 The Saarinen Exhibit, "Eero Saarinen: Shaping the Future." More information:

www.artsmia.org , www.walkerart.org

Nov. 18 FACA Board Meeting at the home of Andreas Ostenso. (651) 646-9604.

Nov. 21 FACA Program, Diane Dettmann, *Miriam, Daughter of Finnish Immigrants*. 7:30 p.m., International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

Nov 25 Finnish Genealogy Group of MN meeting 9:30AM-12:30 PM. Plymouth Apostolic Church 11015 Old County Road 15 Plymouth, MN. More information <http://www.minnesotafinnish.org/index> or ds1940@aol.com

Nov 28 Join the party at Kramarczuk's—Finn Hall's 'Northeast home.' Bring the children along to this family-friendly place. Finn Hall will play at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. 6:30-8:45 p.m. Great food, beer and wine available, and, of course, dance space! \$2 cover charge. Contact Ralph Tuttila for more info. Hear our music and get links to YouTube clips at www.finnhall.com

Dec 6 FACA *Pikkujoulu* (see insert.)

Dec 6 Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society, *Pikkujoulu*, Cokato, Mn. More information: www.cokato.mn.us/cmhs/fahs.html

Dec 6 Finnish Independence Day celebration, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis.

Dec 6 FACA's Annual *Pikkujoulu*. Visit by Santa Claus, the Sauna Bucket award, a *tori*, delicious Finnish Christmas food for dinner. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information see insert, or: www.finnfaca.org

Dec 7 *Pikkujoulu*, Duluth, 12:00 p.m., Finnish buffet, program, prizes. Advance ticket purchase \$15/adults \$7.50/child. 218-525-4435 or 218-729-9316 Sponsored by: MN Finnish American Historical Society of Duluth. Holiday Inn. 200 W 1st St. (218) 722-1202

Dec. 7 St. Anthony Sister City Association Annual Meeting and Holiday Party, St. Anthony Village City Hall (Multi-purpose Room), 6:30 p.m. Business meeting, 6:45p.m. refreshments, 7:00 p.m. Marianne Wargelin "What do you mean? After 800 years we're not Swedes? You can just give most of us away?" The *More calendar*, pg. 7