

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

November/Marraskuu 2005

“Children in the Information Society: The Case of Finland” Juha Suoranta, visiting professor

By Floyd Niskanen

Professor Juha Suoranta, The Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies, Department of Sociology, will be the presenter for our November 18th program.

Professor Suoranta began his work as the Government of Finland/ David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies in August 2005. He holds a Professorship in Adult Education at the University of Joensuu, Finland. Before that he was Professor of Education at the University of Lapland in Rovaniemi, Finland for seven years.

In 2002 he was Acting Professor at the Sibelius Academy. In 1996-1997 he worked as a Visiting Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and in 2003-2004 at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2003 he was Senior Scientist of the Academy of Finland. He is Adjunct Professor for the Sibelius Academy in music education, and for the University of Tampere in media education.

Professor Suoranta is a member of several academic journals' editorial boards in the field of education, both in Finland and abroad. He has also served as a short-term educational expert in Tanzania and as a consultant for the United Nations World Youth Report 2003.

Professor Suoranta has published many books and research articles both nationally and internationally. Among them is his co-authored book, *Children in the Information Society: The Case of Finland* (with Hanna Lehtimäki, 2004). This will be his title for the November program.

Join us for an informative and enjoyable evening. Refreshments will be served.

FACA PROGRAM

**Children in the Information
Society : The Case of Finland**

Friday, November 18

7:30 p.m.

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

If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin

at 612-374-2718

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

Hospitality Chair:

Richard Harju
763-784-9522
rjharju@yahoo.com

Board Member:

Barbara Nikula Owens
651-774-3551
BNO@yahoo.com

FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:

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

Graphic Design:

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

Contributing Writers:

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

Mailing:

Urho and Pam Rahkola

President's Message

By Alan Norgard

Now that November is here, it is once again time to start thinking about Christmas and FACA's Pikkujoulu celebration. Last year we tried a new location and found that it worked well. We have once again reserved the Roseville Skating Center's Olympic Room and the date will be Sunday, December 11. I hope the outdoor skating rink has ice this year; it would make a very nice backdrop for our banquet. If you remember last year, it was too warm to make ice and the rink was dark. With ice for skating and the lights on, it is quite picturesque. The board has decided to break with the tradition of a Saturday night banquet in favor of a Sunday evening instead. I would like to apologize in advance for any confusion we may have caused by earlier reports made in the newsletter. Several dates have been reported, but this should be the final one: site availability and avoiding conflict with other events has been difficult this year. We should have our traditional Finnish meal—as of this writing the menu is still in a state of flux, but we are trying to keep the costs under control. The starting time will be a half hour earlier than usual (5:30 p.m. for the "Social Hour") since many people will likely want to get home a little earlier. There is an insert with a registration form in this newsletter, so be sure to get yours in as early as possible to guarantee a place. See you there!

Thinking about last month's program on genealogy and how to find information in libraries led me to an interesting article available on the Virtual Finland website that describes the newest destination in Helsinki—Library 10. Since Finland has such a high literacy rate, it isn't surprising that they should have the latest in library technology. This new library isn't traditional at all—it has all the latest in information technology but stocks no general literature or fiction (these are available for pickup at the library through an Internet ordering system). Since it opened in April 2005, some 4,000 people a day drop in, 60% of them young men—a group you don't expect to be in libraries. They are attracted by the specialties of Library 10: music, popular culture, and information technology. Computers play an important part, of course, and you can borrow them or bring your own equipment and set up your own temporary space using furniture, cables, and other equipment provided by the library. You can then access the library database - if you have a library card. Librarians play a different role here and serve as assistants who can sit beside you and help in navigating databases or answering technology related questions. The library also has music listening areas, reading areas, and even has a sound studio where you can bring your own instruments and make recordings yourself. There are rooms for meetings equipped with all the latest projection equipment and a stage area where groups can perform for small audiences on weekends. It sounds like a good place to visit if you are in Helsinki. It's easy to find as it is in the Main Post Office building between the train station and Mannerheimintie, Helsinki's main thoroughfare.

See you at the next meeting!



Finnish History Through the Eyes of Children

A new book, *Suomen lasten historia* (“A History of Finnish Children”) published by Otava, is intended for children who are interested in history and want to read beyond what they learn from school textbooks. All of the stories in the book are told from the perspective of children over the age of ten, and they are supplemented by lists of facts. The book begins with the settlement of Finland by its first inhabitants, and concludes with the country’s newest inhabitants—refugees. The volume was written jointly by author and scriptwriter Kirsti Manninen and the head of the Loimaa Agricultural Museum, Juha Kuisma, who is also known for his work with the Centre Party. Illustrations were by Jussi Kaakinen.

Also taking part in the project were Kuisma’s children, Viivi and Roope, who are the age of the intended readers. Many of the stories are based on the experiences of people who lived through the times, but all of them are fictionalized to some degree. The book portrays Finnish history as a long line of tribulations, but all of the chapters are survival stories.

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.

Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

Arrangements for our Pikkujoulu celebration topped the list of agenda items at the October meeting of the Board. Reports on available venues were received, and the consensus of opinion led us to choose Sunday, December 11th, 2005 for Pikkujoulu.

The first information for the Festival of Nations was received. The dates will be May 4–7, 2006, and FACA will participate with a café, exhibit and adult program. Committee chairs are needed for the various areas.

The regular reports were received from the secretary and treasurer. The Program VP and Hospitality Chairs also reported on plans for the upcoming months.

There were 31 memberships received in September. We are in the process of recruiting and retaining members.

Tallest Wooden Office Building in Europe Built Near Helsinki

The tallest wooden office building in Europe is in the city of Tapiola, near Helsinki, Finland. Finnforest, a company that produces wood products, wanted its head office to serve as an example of the varied uses of its raw material, and hopes that it will draw attention outside of Finland as well. The five-story structure was assembled like a *lego* building out of 1,200 prefabricated elements and 17,000 individually-crafted parts manufactured at the company’s own factory. The building itself is a tribute to Finnish know-how in wood construction, and the forest is present in the building’s surroundings.

Dozens of pines have been planted near the southern end of the building. The company headquarters of Finnforest is a convincing example of how wood is a viable material for office buildings, and not just for family homes and indoor sports facilities, where it is already widely used. Fire regulations prevented the use of wood in tall buildings for a long time, but now fire safety can be guaranteed. Wood has the advantage of being recyclable, and it has a relaxing effect on the working environment.



A FACA membership makes a great gift!

Finnish Independence Day Celebration

On Sunday, December 4, you are invited to celebrate Finnish Independence Day at two separate events at the University of Minnesota—the showing of a Finnish film followed by a reception. Come for one or both!

The Finnish film (to be announced) will be shown at 2:00 p.m. in the Bell Museum Auditorium, 10 Church St. S.E., Minneapolis in cooperation with Minnesota Film Arts.

Following the film, a reception to officially mark Independence Day will be held in the Nolte Hall Lounge, adjacent to Bell Museum, with refreshments provided by the Sisu Coffee and tea. Music will be performed by Sepia, a student music duo from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki.

Vocalist Victoria Lindqvist and guitarist Lauri Schreck perform traditional folksongs from Finland and Sweden arranged with a modern touch of minimalism and jazz. Their repertoire includes pop/folk songs of artists such as Joni Mitchell and Suzanne Vega, as well as their own compositions. They will soon release their first recording.

Cost for the film is \$8 general, and \$5 for members of Minnesota Film Arts and those who show their Independence Day postcard. The cost for the reception is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Children and students pay \$5, and seniors pay \$7 (\$8 at the door). For parking information at Bell Museum, go to <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/BellMus/>. To RSVP or for program information, contact Betsey Norgard, norgard@winternet.com or 651-786-5988.

The Independence Day program is co-sponsored by the Government of Finland and Nancy and David Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies, the Honorary Consulate of Finland, and Finlandia Foundation-Twin Cities Chapter.

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

Finnish Libraries

Finnish libraries in figures, 2004:

- § In Finland there are 882 public libraries, 75 institutional libraries (for example in hospitals, and retirement homes), 187 mobile libraries and one seagoing library that serves residents in the offshore islands of South-west Finland.
- § Every Finn visits a library on average 12.84 times a year and borrows about 21 books or other items during the year.
- § There are about 41 million books or other items in stock in Finnish libraries — just under 8 items per resident.
- § The operating costs of Finnish libraries are about EUR 45/resident. The lion's share of expenditure on libraries is paid by the municipalities. Central government, too, contributes to their upkeep. The government's library allocation for 2005 was around EUR 105 million.
- § Finland's first public library opened in Vaasa, on the west coast, in 1794. Establishing and maintaining libraries became the responsibility of local authorities in the early 20th century.

Hyvää Joulua!



FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight issues of this newsletter 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 Gales of November Statewide Tour

Minnesota Public Radio, in association with New Music Arts presents *The Gales of November: The Final Voyage of the Edmund Fitzgerald*, State wide Tour, from November 10–20. *The Gales of November* is a performance in two acts featuring stirring music, recitations, and monologues from the award-winning play *Ten November*, by Steven Dietz and Eric Peltoniemi. The concert stars acclaimed singers Prudence Johnson, Ruth MacKenzie, and Claudia Schmidt. The Tour commemorates the 30th Anniversary of the sinking of the S. S. Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior. The show also stars actor and writer Kevin Kling as the narrator and Peter Ostroushko on violin and mandolin. Also featured in the band are musicians Dan Chouinard, accordion and piano; Eric Peltoniemi, acoustic guitar and Jeffrey Willkomm, electric bass

Ten November was written by Steven Dietz (book) and Eric Peltoniemi (music and lyrics) in 1986. It premiered at Wisdom Bridge Theatre in Chicago in 1987 and was produced that same year at Actors Theatre of St. Paul, Minnesota. It has subsequently received over one hundred productions around the United States and Canada— including major productions in Los Angeles, Detroit, Madison, Portland OR, Vancouver BC, and San Antonio.

Concert dates for *The Gales of November* statewide tour are:

Thursday, November 10 and Friday, November 11 (8:00 p.m. shows), the Fitzgerald Theatre in St. Paul, www.fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org/events/
Saturday, November 12 (7:30 p.m. show), DECC Auditorium, Duluth, www.decc.org/
Sunday, November 13 (4:00 p.m. show), Miles Reif Performing Arts Center, Grand Rapids (afternoon matinee concert) www.reifcenter.org
Monday, November 14 (8:00 p.m. show), Fergus Falls Center for the Arts, Fergus Falls www.fergusarts.org
Wednesday, November 16 (7:30 p.m. show), Mayo Civic Center, Rochester www.mayoviccenter.com/
Friday, November 18 (7:30 p.m. show), The Paramount Arts District, St. Cloud www.paramountarts.org
Sunday, November 20 (2:00 p.m. show), Central Square Cultural & Civic Center, Glenwood www.centalsquare.org

In Memory of Robert E. Nylund

Robert E. Nylund, age 89, passed away on June 16th peacefully at home. Bob was born January 22, 1916 in Ely, MN to Elizabeth and John Nylund, who were both Finnish immigrants. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Catherine, his sons James (Vera Trent) and Thomas (Linda), his step-granddaughters, Kimberly and Carrie Charles, and his granddogs, Angel and Zoe.

Bob was in the US Navy in WWII. He retired in 1978 after a distinguished 40 year career as professor of Horticulture at the U of M.

His honors included: elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Honorary Life Memberships in the Potato Association of America and the Minnesota Horticultural Society, Fulbright lectureships to the University of Helsinki in 1960 and 1972, the Medal of Merit from the University of Helsinki, the Freedom Medal from the government of Finland (for activities fostering understanding between Finland and the United States). He was fluent in Finnish and was an enthusiastic advocate of all things Finnish, including the *sauna*. In 1949, Bob and a group of Finnish-American men organized the St. Paul Chapter, #23, of the Finnish-American Historical Society (the precursor to the Finnish American Cultural Activities—FACA).

Bob also contributed to the community through his interests with the regional and state science fairs, the International Institute of St. Paul, the Festival of Nations, the American Field Service Foreign Student Exchange Program, the Boy Scouts of America, and the St. Anthony Park Association. He received the St. Paul Winter Carnival Committee's "Poobah of Pint Sized Pucks" award for 10 years service as a volunteer hockey coach.

Bob was an avid golfer, curler, camper, hunter, fisherman and gardener, and spent much of his retirement at his lake cabin near Bigfork, MN. He donated his body to the University of Minnesota Medical School. Bob requested that there be no funeral. There will be a memorial gathering at the Party room on Midland Grove Road, Roseville, MN, on November 25, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Traditional Finnish Christmas Recipes



Christmas Cake— Joulukakku

from: The Finnish Cookbook, Beatrice Ojakangas

A Christmas cake is typified by a filling of plums or prunes topped with whipped cream—actually a delectable combination. You may, if you wish, use apricot jam instead; this is another good combination with whipped cream, but it's not traditionally Christmassy.

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

filling:

- 1 cup red plum jam
- 1 cup heavy cream, whipped

Beat the eggs and sugar together until thick and creamy. Sift the flour with the salt and baking powder into the egg mixture; fold in until well blended. Divide the batter between 2 buttered 8 or 9 inch cake pans and bake in a moderately hot oven (375 degrees) for 20 to 25 minutes or just until the cakes begin to pull away from the sides of the pans. Cool on a rack.

Split each cooled cake layer into 2 parts. Fill the layers with the plum jam, topped with a layer of whipped cream, but reserve some of the whipped cream to garnish the top of the cake. Refrigerate until serving time.

Welcome New Members!

Jon Paul & Stacy Besonen
Hanover, Minnesota
Tervetuloa!

Rutabaga Casserole— Lanttulaatikko

from: Best of Finnish Cooking, Taimi Previdi

- 2 medium rutabagas
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 2 tablespoons dark corn syrup or pancake syrup
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1/4 teaspoon white pepper
- 1 cup milk or cream
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs

Peel and cut the rutabaga into 1 inch cubes, and put them into a stainless steel or enamel saucepan. Pour in enough water to barely cover the vegetables and add the salt. Bring to a boil, lower the heat and simmer for 20-30 minutes, or until tender when tested with a fork.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Drain the rutabagas and mash them using a potato masher, an electric mixer or a food processor. Add the butter, syrup, flour and pepper. Stir in enough milk or cream to make a fairly loose mixture. Add salt to taste. When somewhat cooled, beat in the egg. Pour into a buttered casserole and sprinkle the top with bread crumbs. Bake for 1 hour or until nicely browned on top. Serve hot.

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 |
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| <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.

Pieniä Paloja

- The coffee and treats for the October FACA program were provided by **Kay Gould, Gordon Granroth, and Doris and Richard Harju**. Kay's brownies were a big hit. *Kiitos* to all of you!
- Youth **Bandy** registration is now open online at www.ci.roseville.mn.us, go to the Parks and Recreation link. Bandy, similar to ice hockey, is popular in Finland, Russia and Scandinavia. Questions/comments, call Nancy Nelson at 651-484-0840.
- The Finnish **Fazer** Group, a major manufacturer of bread and confectionery, has announced the purchase of a leading bakery in Moscow— OAO Experimentalny Konditersko-Bulochny Kombinat "Zvezdny", one of Russia's largest manufacturers of frozen pizza and frozen dough. Zvezdny also manufactures confectionery items and fresh bread. The company, which employs about 1,000 people, had a turnover of about EUR 23 million last year. In the deal, Fazer acquired nearly 97% of the company's shares.

2006 John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon

The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is looking for volunteers to help out at the Finland, Minnesota checkpoint January 29, 2006. The marathon is held annually on the North Shore in the Duluth-Grand Marais area. The race has mandatory resting stops along the entire route. If you enjoy cold, quiet snow covered expanses of mountainous terrain, you will enjoy the checkpoint at Finland, Minnesota. If you enjoy a roaring bonfire with friends at an important sled dog road crossing on Highway 1, you will enjoy the checkpoint at Finland, Minnesota. If you enjoy making new Finnish-American friends and enjoying Finnish foods, conversation and laughter within the village's community hall, you will enjoy the checkpoint at Finland, Minnesota.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 29, 2006—the day the race starts at Duluth and the evening the team and mushers are due to arrive at the checkpoint at Finland, Minnesota. Curious? Interested? Call Bob Schermerhorn at (612) 920-2605.

More Calendar Items:

Dec. 10, Sat. Cokato Finnish-American Historical Society's Pikkujoulu party at Edgewood Gables in Cokato. Potluck from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m., candle-lighting at Finnish cemetery at 5:45 p.m. For information contact Harvey Barberg at 320-286-5823 or see www.cokato.mn.us/emhs/fahs.html

Dec. 10, Sat. Kauneimmat Joululaulut, a Finnish Christmas worship service with lots of singing of Finnish Christmas carols, will be at 2 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 1660 West County Road B, Roseville. Contact Mel or Norma Johnson at melnorma@yahoo.com or call Irmeli Moran at 651-633-8221 for more details.

Dec. 11, Sun. Pikkujoulu celebration and catered dinner at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive, Roseville. Social hour at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 p.m. (See President's Message and insert for details.)

Dec. 17, Sat. Suomikoulu (Finnish school) Christmas party at Christchurch Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For more information and to find out how to enroll your child in Suomikoulu, see www.minnesotafinnish.org.

Jan. 12–14, 2006 Osmo Vänskä, from Lahti, Finland, leads the Minnesota Orchestra in Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy*, Symphony No. 9, *Choral (Ode to Joy)*. Helena Juntunen, soprano; Katrina Karneus, mezzo; Gordon Gietz, tenor; Neal Davies, bass; and the Minnesota Chorale. Call 612-371-5642 for tickets or see minnesotaorchestra.org.

Feb. 16–17, 2006 Minnesota Orchestra, conducted by Osmo Vänskä, performs Sibelius' *Lemminkäinen Legends*, as well as Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 25 and Kernis' *Sarabanda in Memoriam*. Call 612-371-5642 for tickets or see minnesotaorchestra.org.

Finnish American Graduate Fellowship

Donations are needed for the Finnish American Graduate Fellowship fund at the Immigration History Research Center. The University of Minnesota Graduate School's 21st Century Fund will match donations, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant will provide \$1 for every \$4 in contributions. You can donate online at www.ihrc.umn.edu. Click on "stories" in the menu box.



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

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Nov. 18, Fri. FACA Program at the International Institute of St. Paul, 1694 Como Ave. St. Paul, at 7:30, featuring Professor Juha Suoranta, The Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies, Department of Sociology, speaking on Finnish children and the effects of information technology. (See p. 1)

Nov. 19, Sat. Pasty Sale from 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. at 741 Ibarra Avenue NE, Buffalo, MN (off County Rd 34, between Hanover and Buffalo). For info, see www.rllchurch.org/psty or call 763-682-6094.

Nov. 26, Sat. Finn Hall plays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage co., 215 E. Hennepin, Minneapolis. Call 612-379-3018. Kramarczuk's is next door to Baltic Imports, a good place to browse and start your holiday shopping.

Dec. 3, Sat. Pasty Sale and Christmas Bazaar from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. at the Minneapolis Laestadian Lutheran Church, 13030 47th Avenue North, Plymouth. Original and rutabaga pasties will be available. For info, see www.rllchurch.org/psty or call 763-682-6094.

Dec. 4, Sun. Finnish Independence Day celebration. Finnish film at 2:00 p.m. at the Bell Museum and reception and entertainment after the film at the Nolte Hall Lounge, adjacent to the Bell Museum, with refreshments provided by Sisu Coffee and Tea. Music will be performed by Sepia, a student music duo from the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki. Cost for the film is \$8 general, and \$5 for members of Minnesota Film Arts and those who show their Independence Day postcard. The cost for the reception is \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Children and students pay \$5, and seniors pay \$7 (\$8 at the door). For parking information at Bell Museum, go to <http://onestop.umn.edu/Maps/BellMus/>. To RSVP or for program information, contact Betsey Norgard, norgard@winternet.com or 651-786-5988. (See p. 4)

More calendar items, p 7