

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

October/Lokakuu 2006

Finnish Foreign Policy Presentation by Mika Aaltola

The recent debate in Finnish foreign policy has concentrated on three key topics: NATO-membership, the nature of collective security under EU, and difficulties in the trans-Atlantic relationship. These issues have highlighted the question of what is the overall legacy of Finnish foreign policy and how that legacy influences today's foreign policy? Mika Aaltola, in the October FACA program, will concentrate on what bearing the Cold War mind sets have on contemporary Finnish foreign policy. He will review the interests, identities, and ethics inherent in Finnish foreign policy that have remained relatively constant despite the end of the Cold War and September 11th. Moreover, he will suggest that what can be called a 'technological character' defines much of today's debate.



Dr. Mika Aaltola is an adjunct professor of international relations at the University of Tampere, Finland. He is currently a visiting professor of Finnish studies at the University of Minnesota. He has previously worked as a visiting researcher at the University of Cambridge. He completed his BA at Columbia University and had his doctoral degree from the University of Tampere. He has published a book on Finnish foreign policy.

OCTOBER FACA PROGRAM

Finnish Foreign Policy

Mika Aaltola

October 20

7:30 p.m.

International Institute

1694 Como Ave., St. Paul

If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin

at 612-374-2718

Come join us at the International Institute on October 20 at 7:30 p.m. at 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul for an informative evening, delicious refreshments, and a chance to visit with other Finnish-Americans, Finns, and friends of Finns.

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

This last month has been fairly busy for me. Our place up north has been doing quite well despite the summer's drought. The grass is trying to grow, giving the lawn a little tinge of green instead of the brown dirt we were getting used to. By the time the snow flies, it may be well established, given the rain we've had lately. It's sort of a good metaphor for FACA. As we "plant" a new season of activities and programs, by spring we should see new growth, both annual and perennial, with, hopefully, very few weeds to be pulled.



One of the new annuals was the visit of the *Metsälehti* readers' group. They arrived in Minneapolis on the 17th and started their tour of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan forests. We met them first at their hotel in Bloomington and presented a short talk about FACA, Finnish immigrants, and some of our activities here in the Twin Cities. The first leg of their tour took them to Blandin Paper in Grand Rapids and included a visit to the Forest History Center where they were treated to a dinner in the Cook Shack building. Betsey and I met them there again and it was fun to hear about their experiences so far. They were very impressed by the tour and said it was one of the best so far for their group. After a cold and rainy day visiting Blandin's forest lands, it was good to be in the Cook Shack, in the warmth of the old barrel stove, eating our typical lumberjack meal of potatoes, baked beans, rutabagas, roast pork, and prunes. Some in the group mentioned that it was a little bit like a Finnish Christmas with that menu. They really appreciated that we were able to meet with them and let them get to know a bit about Finnish Americans. I would also like to send a note of thanks to Pirjo Aristidou for coming to the Hotel in Bloomington and helping with our presentation there. Most of the people did not speak English, and I really appreciated her being able to do some of the presentation in Finnish.

Speaking of Christmas, our perennial Pikkujoulu celebration is coming up soon—remember to set aside some time on Saturday, December 9 at the Roseville Skating Center. We will have the registration forms in the November newsletter with all the details. Don't go "dormant" for the winter—come out and celebrate with us and invite your friends and relatives.

We are still looking for an editor for the *Utiset*. I think that the committee editorship might work well, so don't think that you need to work alone on this. Please let me know if you are even the slightest bit interested in the newsletter. And thank you Tiina for staying on longer so we can find a new editor. It is really appreciated.

Finnish Events at the Leiv Eriksson Festival

The Leiv Eriksson International Festival, an annual October celebration of Nordic culture, has two events focusing on Finland this year: an open house on Tuesday, October 17, with a presentation of Finnish textiles by Susan Harstad, and a Finnish worship service on October 29. Both of these take place at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis (Franklin Ave. at 10th Ave.).

The Tuesday Open Houses are popular events, and this year we were asked to arrange a presentation on Finnish textiles. Sue Harstad will show samples and present a program that's both fun and interactive. The presentation, "The Colorful World of Finnish Textiles," will be at noon, preceded by a light lunch at 11:00 a.m. The cost will be \$5 at the door.

The Finnish service during the Festival this year will be held on Oct. 29, at 11 a.m. at Mindekirken. Pastor Melvin Johnson will preach in Finnish and English, and music will be provided by both the vocal group Saana Ensemble and by Johanna Doty on violin. Honorary Consul Marianne Wargelin will present greetings on behalf of the Finnish community. The service will be very Nordic, incorporating some of the liturgy in Norwegian, which is Mindekirken's customary practice. Following the service, coffee and pulla will be served.

This is the first time the LEIF Finnish service has included both a minister and the music, both choral and instrumental, from our Finnish community.

For information and the full calendar of events for the festival, contact norgard@winternet.com or go to www.mindekirken.org/LEIF/LEIF.htm

Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The Board met Tuesday, September 12th, with all members present. Reports from the secretary and treasurer were received and details of the September FACA meeting were finalized.

Items for discussion and decision included the Salolampi Scholarship, the FACA newsletter editor position, Pikkujoulu, upcoming programs, the Metsälehti Tour Group, and the next Finnish Expatriate Parliament.

We will offer our members the option of receiving the newsletter via email. This change could be a cost-cutting move, since it costs FACA about \$1.35 per copy to produce and mail the newsletter.

The next meeting of the board will be held Tuesday, October 17th, at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville at 7:30 p.m. All FACA members are welcome to attend. For information, call Luella Zibell at 651-482-1965.

Virtual Castles in Finland and Russia

A total of 23 Finnish and Russian old castles and fortresses opened to virtual travelers in September, when an Internet portal entitled *Linnasta linnaan* ("From castle to castle"—www.fort.fi) was launched in connection with a meeting on cultural cooperation between the European Union and Russia. The sites in Finland include for example Kajaani Castle, which was built in the 17th century and blown up in 1716 by the Russians. Probably the most famous of Finnish castles these days are the large naval fortress of Suomenlinna, off the coast of Helsinki, and Olavinlinna in Savonlinna, home of the annual Savonlinna Opera Festival.

The main objective of the project is to encourage the development of tourism both in Finland and in the Russian zone near the Finnish border. All Finnish and Russian castles and fortresses with shared history have joined the project, and also the home municipalities of the castles are involved.

The history as well as the locations of the castles, forts, and fortresses can be found on the web site <http://www.fort.fi/english/index.html>.

Nordic Winter Solstice Performance

The *Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality* presents: *Blessing ~ A Winter Solstice Experience ~* December 8–10 & 15–17 at 7:00 p.m. at the Carondelet Center, 1890 Randolph Ave., St. Paul.

Blessing leads you into the mysterious heart of the Winter Solstice where darkness and rebirth merge. 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 Sámi land, 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.

Learn and Practice Finnish Locally

There are no excuses not to learn Finnish with the many opportunities we have in the Twin Cities and elsewhere in Minnesota.

Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. you can converse in Finnish (or just listen and learn) with the Finnish Conversation group that meets at St. Anthony Park library, 2245 Como Ave., St. Paul.

Thursday evenings at 7:00 there is a free Beginner Finnish Class that meets at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church in Plymouth, 11015 Old County Road 15. For information on either of these classes, please call Floyd Niskanen at 763-540-0121.

Every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the Finlanders at the University of Minnesota have a casual conversation hour to which everyone is welcome, no matter your language ability. They meet at Border-town Coffee, 315 16th Ave SE, Minneapolis, (very near Folwell Hall).

You can always get great Finnish instruction, as well as eat wonderful Finnish food and enjoy other Finnish activities by attending an Adult Week in the spring or fall at the Salolampi Finnish Language Village, about 4 ½ hours north of the Twin Cities. For more information on these programs, call 1-800-450-2214.

Puhukaa Suomea!

Culture, Language and Bilingualism

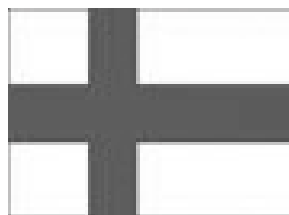
By *Floyd Niskanen*

Our first program this year was presented by Jukka Kukkonen, a recent immigrant from Finland. He moved here in 2002 with his wife from the U.S. whom he met through his work. He teaches at Suomi-koulu, publishes the Suomi-info e-newsletter and the MinnesotaFinnish.org web site.

His program about the challenges faced with trying to raise children with two languages and cultures was interesting to many of us, because our grandparents and parents faced the same kinds of problems. How can we pass the culture and language on to future generations, especially when the children are faced with many other pressures, especially peer pressure?

After his introduction, which included the ties between language and culture, Jukka moved the program to an interactive session with the audience. He knew the audience had much knowledge in this area, so he split them into small groups and had them think and discuss their feelings about growing up in a two-language home and culture. Then the small groups shared these with the whole group which brought out views and comments about the sauna, foods, dances, movies, co-op stores, church, grandparents, community, etc. This was then followed again by small groups and then the whole group discussion of how language helps us learn culture.

Jukka ended the program by mentioning how new technologies can help preserve the language and culture, especially for new immigrants. They can now use telephone and video calls which are low cost, as well as internet communications to family and friends in Finland. Also, DVD's, YLE radio, etc. can help teach language and culture to children and adults. The program generated lots of interest, and Jukka continued answering questions through the refreshment time.



Immigration History Research Center News

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) plans an exciting year of special programs for 2006-2007 and invites you to join them.

The continuing lecture series will be: "It's History: Immigration since 1965," four lectures by specialists across the disciplines. Begins October 31, 2:30-4:30 p.m., 155 Blegen Hall, with guest Demetrios Papademetriou, Director of the Migration Policy Institute in Washington.

A new monthly IHRC seminar will be: "Disciplinary Research in an Interdisciplinary Field: Migration Studies," October 26, noon, 308 Andersen Library with a talk by Donna Gabaccia, IHRC and History Department: "Immigration Key Words: Digitizing the History of Ideas," and December 5, noon, 308 Andersen Library with a talk by Katherine Fennelly, HHH Institute: "Determinants of American Attitudes toward Immigration."

Workshops for historians and social scientists will be held November 2, 9:30-11:30 a.m., "Gender and Migration" and April 1, "Historians, Migration, the Media."

For information on the Michael G. Karni Scholarship for Grants-in-Aid of Finnish Research, see <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/educators/pdf/Karnischolarship.pdf>. Applications for the award must be received by the deadline of November 1, 2006, for travel between January and December 2007. You can also view a listing of publications offered for sale, with proceeds supporting the ongoing development of the Karni Fund at <http://www.ihrc.umn.edu/publications/pdf/Karnibookslist.pdf>. The publications are from Mike Karni's former enterprise, "Sampo Publishing, Inc." and include several issues of the research periodical FINNISH AMERICANA as well as memoirs and literary writings on the Finnish American experience.

See the new and revised IHRC website: <http://ihrc.umn.edu> for updates and more details. You can also call 612-625-4800 for information.

Kantele Class

Come learn how to play the *kantele*, Finland's uniquely beautiful Baltic harp.

In six sessions we will learn to play beginning level music for the 5-string *kantele*. We will also cover history and mythology of the instrument, care and maintenance, and discover the many dynamic *kantele* players of Finland. Here is your chance to learn to play that instrument you may have tucked in a corner somewhere! Rental options will be available.

We will meet at Lizzé at 1856 Grand Ave, St. Paul, Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on October 24, November 7, 21, 28, December 5 and 12. The cost for six sessions is \$125.00. Contact Diane Jarvi at 612-822-5273 or at jarbrun@qwest.net or call Gail Hayden at 651-699-4585.

Instructor Diane Jarvi has played the *kantele* for over twenty years and studied *kantele* at the Sibelius Academy in Helsinki, Finland. She is an award-winning musician and poet.. She has recorded five solo CD recordings and is a former member of *Koivun Kaiku*, a local *kantele* ensemble. She was a recipient of a McKnight-Macphail Performing Fellowship and was named Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year. Jarvi has given *kantele* workshops and demonstrations around the country and in Canada. For more information on Diane, visit www.dianejarvi.com

Newsletter Editor Needed

The *Utiset* needs a new editor. There are nine issues per year. The job involves collecting the news on a timely basis that goes into the *Utiset* and sending it to the graphics editor. Someone has expressed interest in sharing the position. If you are interested, contact Al at: 651-786-5988 or norgard@winternet.com or Tiina at: 763-323-6690 or tiiwatts@usfamily.net.

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

Scenes from the Salolampi Work Weekend and Fall Adult Week

Photos: Gil Kinnunen



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.



Pieniä Paloja

- **Southern Finland** has been experiencing warmer than normal temperatures in September. In a typical Finnish autumn, the weather changes rapidly, the evenings and nights get dark and rains and storms follow each other with depressingly predictable regularity. The autumn months are also the period of mushrooms and berries, while the most notable sign of the fall season is the color changes, with all leaves turning yellow and red. In Lapland the riot of colors is a major tourist attraction, known as *ruska*. Migratory birds are departing and heading for the south, and the first ones to vanish have been swallows and other insect-eaters. The most fascinating signal of the upcoming autumn is a wedge of cranes heading to their winter homes. The first wave of cranes has already gone, while the main crowds are still waiting for suitable winds on the fields of Ostrobothnia. The current autumn is said to be the warmest within living memory. There have been no frosty nights in Southern Finland, rains have been slow to come, the birches are still green, and the dahlias are still blossoming on balconies.
- A summons notice has been delivered to the Russian Embassy in Helsinki regarding 61 farms and other real estate in **Karelia** that were ceded to the Soviet Union in World War II. The number of plaintiffs in this new claim is 88. Previously a similar claim was delivered to Russia with three Finnish citizens as plaintiffs. Helsinki lawyer, Kari Silvinnoinen, says that if Russia refuses to respond to the new claim (as they did the old one), he will issue another complaint to the European Court of Human Rights.
- Two out of three buses were found to be exceeding the posted speed limits while driving in downtown **Helsinki**, according to measurements carried out by the Helsinki City Planning Department. The information is based on the data recorded at 200 measuring points in the course of three years. The speeds of 300,000 vehicles were measured, with some 4,000 of them being buses. However, bus drivers were not found to be the most reckless motorists. The most aggressive driving was found among taxi drivers. Also drivers of vans and private cars were speeding more often than buses.

Additional Calendar Items

Oct. 30, Nov. 1–2 The Annual Salolampi Scholarship Phonathon, the annual appeal by the Salolampi Foundation to help reduce tuition costs and make attendance at Salolampi Finnish Language Village more affordable, will be held at the Thrivent Financial Building in Minneapolis. If you do not receive a call during the Phonathon, you may send a donation to the Salolampi Foundation, P O Box 14480, Minneapolis MN 55414-0480. For information or to volunteer to make phone calls, call Linda Davis at 763-420-3237 or email ldavismn@hotmail.com, or Evelyn Eskeli at 612-359-0805 or eeskeli@usfamily.net.

Dec. 9, Sat. FACA's Annual *Pikkujoulu* party at the Roseville Skating Center. Look for registration form in November FACA newsletter.

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

July 23–27, 2008 Finnfest will be held in Duluth, Minnesota with the theme "Sharing the Spirit of Finland." For more information contact co-chair Jeanne Doty, jdoty@d.umn.edu, 218-726-8140.

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 _____
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Phone _____
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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

Oct. 14, Sat. Viktor Klimenko will present a concert in Duluth at 3:00 p.m. at the Duluth Gospel Tabernacle, 1515 W. Superior Street. The concert is sponsored by the music committee of FinnFest 2008 to be held in Duluth as one of several fund raising concerts. Viktor will sing a variety of songs including Finnish, Russian, Yiddish and Gypsy. The concert will last 1 ½ hours. Coffee and pulla will follow. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. To obtain tickets call or write Elaine Ahlgren at 218-525-4435 and send a stamped self-addressed envelope to her at 3540 Martin Road, Duluth, MN 55803. Everyone Welcome!

Oct. 17, Tues. FACA Board meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville. All FACA members are welcome to attend. For information, call Luella Zibell at 651-482-1965.

Oct. 17, Tues. Open House in connection with the Leiv Eriksson International Festival on "The Colorful World of Finnish Textiles," presented by Susan Harstad at Mindekirken, 924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis (Franklin Ave. at 10th Ave.). For more information email norgard@winternet.com or go to www.mindekirken.org/LEIF/LEIF.htm.

Oct. 20, Fri. October FACA Monthly Program with Mika Aaltola speaking on Finnish foreign policy at the International Institute at 7:30 p.m. at 1694 Como Ave. (See p. 1)

Oct. 25, Wed. Deadline for articles and information to be included in the November/December newsletter (there is no separate December newsletter). Send articles, etc. to Tiina Watts and pictures to Beth Jarvis. See page 2 for contact information.

Oct. 28, Sat. The Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota will be meeting at 9:00 a.m. at the Minnesota History Center 345 Kellogg Blvd W., St. Paul. The topic will be the "Minnesota History Center" and it will be an all-day event. For more information see www.minnesotafinnish.org or email ds1940@aol.com

Oct. 29, Sun. Finnish Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. at Mindekirken, 924 E. 21st St., Minneapolis (Franklin Ave. at 10th Ave.), with Pastor Melvin Johnson preaching and Saana Ensemble singing and Johanna Doty playing violin. The worship service is part of the Leiv Eriksson International Festival. For more information email norgard@winternet.com or go to www.mindekirken.org/LEIF/LEIF.htm.

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