



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

October/Lokakuu 2007

### Celebrating 30 Years of *Salolampi*

*Salolampi* Finnish Language Village marks its 30th anniversary in 2008.

It all began in 1978 at a rented YMCA camp in northern Minnesota, when the Finnish Language Village became part of Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. In 1987, Concordia designated a 40-acre site on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji for a permanent facility. Concordia and the *Salolampi* Foundation launched fund-raising campaigns to build *Salolampi*—classrooms, residential cabins, a kitchen and dining room, and a sauna.

The first sessions for youth at the “lake in the woods” site were held in Summer 1993, and the first adult week was conducted the following spring.

Today, *Salolampi* has programs for youth, adults, and families in winter, spring, summer, and fall. In 2007, Finnish Language Villagers came from 25 states.

At the October program, *Salolampi* Foundation members and *Salolampi* staff and villagers will present the Finnish Language Village’s rich history and creative approaches to language instruction through music, photos, stories, personal experiences, and food.

Come to sing Finnish songs, experience the immersion approach to

learning Finnish, share your *Salolampi* memories, consider ways to celebrate

30 years, and find out about a new music camp that will be offered for the first time next summer.



#### OCTOBER FACCA PROGRAM

##### *Salolampi*

Friday, Oct. 19

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*

I know it seems a little early to be talking about Christmas, but I think I need to let everyone know a few details about *Pikkujoulu* as soon as possible. We will be holding it at the Brooklyn Center Community Center located at I 694 and Highway 100 in Brooklyn Center (near the Brookdale Mall.)

December will be busy with Finnish Independence Day celebrations, *Kauneimat Joululaulut* services, and *Pikkujoulu*. Be sure to watch for the invitations in the newsletter or online at [www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org). Please send them in as quickly as possible since we need to get the total count ready before Thanksgiving. The program will use much the same format as previous years and the board is currently getting details set for the entertainment, Sauna Bucket recipient, and hopefully a visit from *Joulupukki*. (I'm writing this in September, so all the details are not known.) Soile Anderson will be catering again, and we are hoping that we can fill the banquet room this year. Unfortunately, the facility does not allow direct sales so there will not be a *tori*. Please feel free to invite non-members and let all your friends and neighbors know about *Pikkujoulu* – the more the merrier!

Many of you may know that FACA has a storage shed for all our Festival of Nations equipment and some other odds and ends. We are in the process of cleaning it out, since the property it is on is going up for sale. After looking at the shed, the board decided it would be hard to move so we emptied it out. There is a mystery that we are trying to solve. Does anyone remember a 4' x 5' sheet of plywood with a Finnish coat of arms on it? I have asked a number of people, and no one seems to remember where it came from, or if it even belongs to FACA. It seems to be fairly old, and one member thought there was a possibility that it was made for the Minnesota State Centennial celebration, in 1958. If you know, please contact me. Someone has put a lot of work into it, and I would hate to see it go into the trash (or my garage!)

Pastor Rodger Foltz presented a very interesting program for us this month, and I was also pleased that we had some new members attending. Remember we are still running our contest to see who can bring in the most new or renewing members this year. There's still time!

See you at the October program!

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### ***Don't forget! Register Now!***

*Pikkujoulu* will be the evening of December 1, at the Brooklyn Center Community Center (I 694 and Highway 100). Sign up via the enclosed invitations or online at [www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org). Soile Anderson will be catering. Please feel free to invite non-members and let all your friends and neighbors know about *Pikkujoulu* – the more the merrier!



## Finnish Talk & Variety Show Airs on Cable

FACA member, Eric Jaakkola, began a Finnish Talk & Variety Show last April. The shows format begins with a short interview segment followed with music from bands and musical artists.

Eric is always looking for guests for the show. Guests to date have been Ralph Tuttila, Al Reko, and Dennis Halme from the *Finn Hall* Band; Diane Jarvi, Ulla Suokko with Carlos Revollar, Les Harkonen Band, May Prachar Band, Finn Power Band. They are currently busy editing shows featuring the Singing Strings with Director/Violinist, Helina Leino-Pakola from the Evergreen School of Performing Arts.

Most interviews are completed at the Brooklyn Park Studio. Video segments of the performing artists are shot on location by Eric and his wife, Pat. Eric also produces and hosts.

The show is produced at NWCT, Brooklyn Park Community Access Channel. It has expanded to other cable access channels in the Twin Cities, Hibbing, and Duluth. Viewers are encouraged to call their local cable station to comment on the show or ask that it be included in their local line-up. Calls will help to show interest and keep the show on the air. Schedule of the shows and airing on local cable access channels can be found at [www.mn-c.com/fintalk/](http://www.mn-c.com/fintalk/)

For more information, contact Eric Jaakkola via e-mail: [etjaakkola@comcast.net](mailto:etjaakkola@comcast.net).

**Welcome New Member!**

**Sheryl Jones, Ramsey**

**Tervetuloa!**

## Board Notes *By Stella Arola*

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read, and the treasurer's report was accepted.

Al Norgard reported that a group of eight people from Kuopio visited the St Paul area. They met with eight people from MPCA in St. Paul. Kuopio is a sister city of St. Paul. They were studying the storm water and sewage treatment in the Twin Cities. Kuopio is interested in conducting a seminar in Finland next summer on this subject, where they would invite people who are active in other organizations in the Twin Cities and Minnesota to come to Finland (they would have to pay their own air fare but their other expenses would be covered.)

Some details of the 2008 Festival of Nations were discussed.

Details of our *Pikkujoulu* were discussed. It will be held on December 1st at the Brooklyn Community Center which is just off Highway 694 on Shingle Creek Road. Soile Anderson will once again provide the delicious buffet dinner. Final details are being worked out.

Several possible programs for future FACA meetings are being discussed. No further details were available regarding the Finnish Independence Day observance.

Our next meeting will be October 16th at Barbara Nikula Owens' home.

## Finnish Genealogy Group Meets

The October FGG meeting will be held on the third Saturday, October 20, 2007. Topic will be an all-day research/workshop meeting with potluck lunch. There will be several stations in the morning session and several stations in the afternoon session. FGG members who have special knowledge in specific areas of Finnish and/or American genealogy research will be hosting these stations. Members and guests can move about from station to station to learn more about specific areas of interest. The meeting date was changed as a result of the Minnesota Genealogical Society moving schedule. MGS will be moving to their new location in South St. Paul at the end of October. This will be FGG's last meeting at the MGS Golden Valley location.

This meeting will be at 9:30 A.M. at the Minnesota Genealogy Center, 5768 Olson Memorial Highway, Golden Valley. From the junction of Hwy. 100 and 55, go west on 55 to Douglas Drive. Then go one block north on Douglas Drive, turn right, and follow the Frontage Road (E/S/E) to the building with the MGC signs in front. Parking is available in the back.

## 2007 FINNFEST in Ashtabula

by Richard Harju

I have decided to attend all FinnFests, but my wife, Doris, does not attend anymore for health reasons and besides—she is Norwegian. Not wanting to make the trip alone, I was able to line up a vanfull of Finns to ride with me. All heard about my driving and backed out except Karen Luoma-Varichak. We didn't know each other before the trip, but we got off on a positive note when we found out that both of us were born in Hibbing and grew up on the Mesabi Range. The trip was delightful.

**TUESDAY, JULY 24**—Karen and I arrived in Ashtabula.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 25**— We registered at the FinnFest and left immediately for a bus tour to Fairport Harbor. We saw a monument in honor of the Finnish immigrants, the Fairport Marine Museum and lighthouse, and the newly opened Finnish Heritage Museum. We had lunch at the Finnish church, and Vox Solenne Choir from a church in Finland serenaded us. After lunch, we drove through Finn Hollow and then on to Ferrante Winery for a tour. On the way back to Ashtabula, we crossed over one of the many covered bridges in Ohio. That evening, we had the cabbage roll dinner at Bethany Lutheran Church.

**THURSDAY, JULY 26**— In the morning, we went to the Finnish American Cultural Center in Ashtabula and then to Kent State—Ashtabula Campus for FinnFest lectures, music and *tori*. I checked out a few of the displays and picked up my box lunch. I spent a lot of time just visiting with people, and I unexpectedly ran into a blood relative I hadn't seen for a couple of years—my cousin from Gladstone, Mi. The opening ceremony was outside and the weather cooperated. Afterward, we had an informative tour of the Ashtabula Marine Museum. We learned what a *hulett* was—a gigantic machine that unloaded oar boats into railroad cars. Now, however, all ore boats are self-unloading. Then we had an American buffet dinner at the Elks Lakefront Lodge with a dance following. The *King Pins* played oldies rock and roll, but I'm a country-western guy; so I went to the shore of beautiful Lake Erie to take some pictures.

**FRIDAY, JULY 27** —I got serious about attending some lectures. I sat in on "Secondary Education in Finland" by Sharon Rahkonen; "The Finnish American Literature Association" by Beth Virtanen; "How a Small Democracy has Survived Despite Being in a

Bad Neighborhood" by Bill Ahonen; followed by "Finnish Americans Past and Present" by Olavi Kovukangas; and "A Bird's Eye View into a Finnish Community: New York Mills, Minnesota, 1930s" by Darryl Nicholson from Minneapolis. We were on our own for our evening meal, and the Bridge Street Bistro had been recommended by Karen's friend; so we headed there. It was packed with a long wait for dinner, but a couple from St. Paul recognized us and invited us to join them—Mary Leukuma-Manthey and Richard Manthey. They were a very friendly, talkative couple. Karen ended up with an extra ticket to the FinnFest USA 2007 Symphony Concert and reception. I was happy to accompany her, but I did not look forward to the music as I do not understand it (being a country-western fan, and all). Afterward, we headed back to the Elks Club to hear the musical stylings of "Ernest T."

**SATURDAY, JULY 28** —I attended a lecture: "Tough and Funny Finns" by Bill Halttunen, it received rave reviews! I had time for one more lecture, "Equal Partners: Finns in the Age of the Vikings", by Duane Westfield. A Viking ship was found east of Helsinki in mud in the bay around 1975. This leads some people to believe that perhaps some of the Vikings were actually Finns.

Although art is not "my thing," I visited the Ashtabula Art Museum. There was an impressive display highlighting the work of local Finnish artists. One piece that caught my attention (and Finnish sense of humor) was a charcoal drawing of a *huge* fly, and a city skyline with the moon overhead. It was titled: "Fly by Night." *Hei*—I think I am beginning to understand art!



Fly by Night, Ashtabula Art Museum  
Photo: Richard Harju

The closing party at Lakeside Park included the traditional boot toss, lots of conversation, good food, and music. One member of the Vox Solenne Choir was an Elvis impersonator—a Finnish Elvis! Afterward,

several of us drove to Conneaut, a town about 15 miles east of Ashtabula. Finn Hall Band was playing at Kilpi Hall, and it seemed half the town was there to kick up their heels.

**SUNDAY, JULY 29**— It was time to say our good-byes and leave friendly Ashtabula, Fairport Harbor, and Conneaut and head back to Minnesota.

In conclusion, it was very convenient as registration, all lectures, the *tori* and a lot of Finnish music were in one building at Kent State—Ashtabula Campus. The dances, dinners, and closing party were off site, however, but not too far.

FinnFests are always fun--seeing old friends again and making new friends. I just wish I could have eaten more traditional Finnish food and heard more Finnish music. Maybe in Duluth in 2008.



FINN STATUARY – Fluid, graceful dancers at the entrance to the Ashtabula Art Museum. Photo: Karen Luoma-Varichak



Karen Luoma-Varichak and Richard Harju at FinnFest 2007

## Program Recap

by *Floyd Niskanen and Urho Rahkola*

Last month, Pastor Rodger Foltz presented an interesting program about Mikael Agricola, Reformer of Finland. He began by talking about the difficult conditions in Finland in the 1500's and how special men can change history, such as Luther in Europe, Washington and Lincoln in the United States.

Agricola did the same in Finland, even with his short life of 47 years. Agricola was born in Finland about 1510, during a time when life was difficult in Finland. Finland was a province of Sweden, trying to break away from the Kalmar Union. The climate was hard, the population was small and lived mostly along the south and west shores. There were raids by the Russians in the east, very few schools, the religion was mixed with Catholics, pagans, and Hussites; and Lutheranism was starting to move into Finland.

Agricola lived in Viipuri and in 1528 moved to Turku, where he served in the church. He spoke Finnish and Swedish and later learned Latin, Greek, and German. In 1536, he was sent to Wittenberg, Germany, to study and there he started work on translating the Bible into Finnish. There was very little written work in Finnish; and with Lutheranism moving into the country, there was a need to have the Bible in Finnish. Agricola had to develop orthography and form new words and phrases to present the new concepts and truths of salvation. He also used many of the dialect words to make the text more readable. It is believed that one reason for the high level of success of his translations was the fact that he used words from various parts of Finland to create the language. He used about 8,000 to 9000 words, of which about 400 were foreign.

The New Testament was finally published in 1548, much of it financed by Agricola, himself. He translated about 25% of the Old Testament, wrote an ABC book, a reader, a prayer book, a book for the clergy, etc. In total he published about 9 books in about 9 years. It would be 300 years before another author in Finland published that many books. For his work, he has been called the “Father of the Finnish Language” and also “Man of the Dawn,” because his work energized the growth of the Finnish culture.

About 80 people were present and enjoyed the evening.

## Ely Musician Eli Bissonett Studies at *Ala-Konni Opisto*

by Mary Belanger

A new discovery for me, but maybe not for you, is the music of Eli Bissonett. I had the opportunity to hear him play a couple of different times this summer, and was hooked. I never realized how much I enjoyed violin music! I now enjoy my own collection of his CD's.



I won't be able to hear him perform live for awhile, as he and LynnAnne Vesper (my dog sledding guide from last March) left for Finland to study Finnish folk music. I hope to keep you up-to-date on their experiences as the year goes on.

The school is called *Ala-Konni Opisto (AKO)* located in Kaustinen. It is named after the well-known Finnish folk musician, collector, and scholar, Erkki Ala-Konni. The ambitious curriculum includes individual lessons, group practice, dance lessons, Finnish music history, modern folk music, World music, *jouhikko* instruction, *kantele* instruction, music theory, and various seminars covering specific musical topics. Finland's government-sponsored folk group, *Tallari*, is based in *Kaustinen* and its members teach at *AKO*.

You might have heard in Finnish circles that Kaustinen is the heart of folk music in Finland. The annual Kaustinen Folk Festival is the biggest festival in all the Nordic countries. If you are planning a trip to Finland and are interested in the festival, you can find out more at [www.kaustinen.net](http://www.kaustinen.net). It is an international folk festival, featuring an interesting mix of local *Pelimanni* music, Finnish music from other regions, Celtic and Eastern European dance groups, and an otherwise yearly cycle of featured countries-literally hundreds of performances in one week.

Eli was born in Savonlinna, Finland, and grew up in Ely, Minnesota. His early musical influences include

his mother's Finnish heritage, the natural scenery of Northern Minnesota and the music of the 60s and 70s. At nine years old, he became a music student of Helina Pakola and a member of the Singing Strings, Helina's internationally-known traveling performance group.

Eli studied Classical violin under Young-Nam Kim, at the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor's degree in Violin Performance. Together, Mr. Kim and Eli founded Ely's Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute, which celebrated its sixth year this August.

Spiritwood Music founder, Pat Surface, and Eli began playing music together in 2003 where Eli has recorded several projects. One of his latest CDs, *Northern Nights* is a selection of acoustic instrumental music featuring Nordic and Celtic melodies. Pick up a copy; you will enjoy it as much as I do!

To learn more about Eli and/or Spiritwood Music, check out [www.SpiritwoodMusicInc.com](http://www.SpiritwoodMusicInc.com)



### 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

- Thank you to the servers on Friday, members of the FACA board.
- The Canadian acrobatics spectacle, **Cirque du Soleil**, are currently on their first-ever visit to Finland. Recently the group delivered four performances of *Delirium* to enthusiastic audiences at the Helsinki Arena. The music for the “urban tribal show” has been compiled from previous Cirque du Soleil hits; and it includes tango, samba, and hot African rhythms.
- **Prime Minister Vanhanen** will visit Washington sometime in the autumn or winter, as part of a broader trip to the USA and Canada. Vanhanen’s host in Washington is to be Vice President Dick Cheney.
- This year marks the **100th anniversary of Finnish cinema**. The first Finnish fiction film, *Salaviinanpolttajat* (“Bootleggers”) by Louis Sparre and Teuvo Puro, premiered on May 29th, 1907 in Helsinki. The first Finnish short documentaries are believed to have been produced in Finland in 1904.
- The Finnish pair of **Jussi Väinänen** and **Katja Koukkula** won the inaugural **Eurovision Dance Contest** in London earlier this month. Viewers from across Europe voted for their favorite couple by phone and SMS (text messaging). **The Finns scored 132 points**, ahead of the Ukraine with 121, and Ireland, 95 points. The Finnish pair danced a rumba to *All in Love is Fair*, and for their freestyle dance they chose a *paso doble* to **Apocalyptica’s** *The Unforgiven*.

### FACA Membership

A one-year membership provides you with eight issues of this newsletter plus other benefits for \$25. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check mailing label for membership expiration date.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

### More Calendar items:

- Nov 30** Join the party at Kramarczucs! Finn Hall’s “Northeast home,” 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring the children; this is a family friendly place. Finn Hall will play at Kramarczuk’s Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis (612-379-3018). Great food, dance space, \$2 cover charge. Contact Ralph Tuttila for more information.
- Dec. 1** *Pikkujoulu* (see separate insert for details).
- Dec. 8** 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Independence Day Celebration, First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, 900 Mount Curve Ave., Minneapolis

### Editor’s Notes:

I received an e-mail last week letting me know that 15 Finns would be coming to Brainerd October 10 through 14 to perform a theatre piece based on the *Kalevala*. This e-mail was requesting host families for the five nights they would be in town. I readily agreed and am looking forward to see who will be staying at our house!

The group is from the internationally-known Fiasko and Floppi Theatre Companies of Joensuu. As part of a week-long residency they will perform, conduct workshops and get to know Minnesotans and our culture.

If you get a chance, enjoy the autumn leaves and take the time to drive up to the Brainerd campus of Central Lakes College to check out one of the performances. You might want to stop in at the Boardwalk Bread and Bagel, located on Washington, to enjoy a little coffee and *pulla* (it’s some of the best around!) For theatre info: [www.clcmn.edu/theatre](http://www.clcmn.edu/theatre)

Enjoy the leaves!  
Mary

### 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.



Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.  
P.O. Box 580708  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

## FACA

Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc. is an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the cross-cultural heritage of Americans with Finnish ancestry.

### Information

612-374-2718

[www.finnfaca.org](http://www.finnfaca.org)

## FACA CALENDAR

**Oct 12** Join the party at Kramarczuk's; Finn Hall's "Northeast home," 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring the children; this is a family friendly place. Finn Hall will play at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., 215 E. Hennepin Ave. Minneapolis (612) 379-3018. Great food, dance space, \$2 cover charge. Contact Ralph Tuttila for more info.

**Oct. 12** Concert by *Saana* Ensemble, 7:30 p.m. Leiv Eriksson International Festival, Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church (Mindekirken) 924 E. 21st St, Minneapolis. (612) 874-0716

**Oct 12-14** *Kalevala* Performed by the Fiasko and Floppi Theatre Companies of Joensuu, Finland . October 12, 7:30 p.m., October 13, 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., October 14, 2:00 p.m. Dryden Theatre, Central Lakes College, Brainerd Campus. (See p 7.)

**Oct. 18** Meet *Iittala's* Oiva Toikka, signing his glass birds. Reception for Finnish community 5-6 p.m. Ampersand—3445 Galleria, Edina (corner 69th St. and France Ave.) Store info: (952) 920-2118

**Oct. 19** FACA Monthly Program: *Salolampi* 7:30 p.m., International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

**Oct. 20** Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota meeting, 9:30 a.m. See p. 3.

**Oct. 24** *Uutiset* copy deadline Send copy to Mary at [mary.belanger@dctc.edu](mailto:mary.belanger@dctc.edu) and photos to Beth at [brjarvis@umnedu](mailto:brjarvis@umnedu)

**Nov. 4** All Saints Sunday Finnish Service, 1:30 p.m. , Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Rev. Melvin Johnson, presiding

**Nov. 6, 7, and 8** *Salolampi* Phonathon. Support our youth by participating in the *Salolampi* Scholarship Phonathon. Volunteers needed to make phone calls to raise money for scholarships to the *Salolampi* Finnish Language Village. Contact Evelyn Eskeli at (612) 359-0805; email: [eeskeli@usfamily.net](mailto:eeskeli@usfamily.net), or Linda Davis at (763) 420-3237; email: [ldavismn@hotmail.com](mailto:ldavismn@hotmail.com)

**Nov 8-10** "*Ten November*" a play by Steven Dietz with music by Eric Peltoniemi. Loosely based on events surrounding the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald on Lake Superior on 10 November 1975. This is a reprise of last season's production which played to sold-out audiences. 7:30 pm, Dryden Theatre, Central Lakes College, Brainerd. <http://www.samuelfrench.com/store/index.php>

*More calendar p.7*