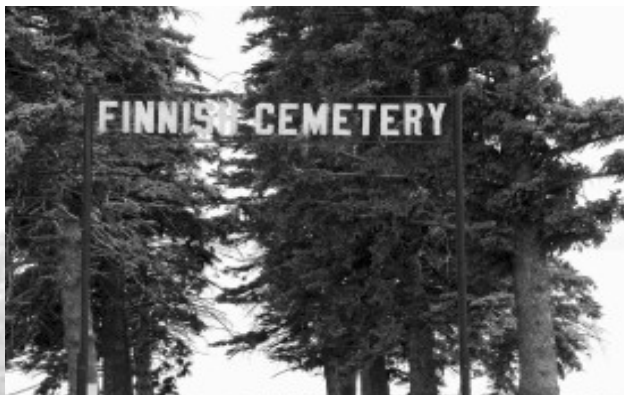




NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

October/Lokakuu 2005



Trace Your Finnish Roots!

Suomalaisten Sukututkimus (Finnish Genealogy)

By Joan Dwyer

According to an article I read on the Internet, genealogy is the second most popular hobby in the United States. (The first is still coin and stamp collecting.) Why is this? What is the

attraction of digging around in musty basements and dusty attics? Do people really plan their vacations to accommodate visits to old cemeteries and libraries? Is it true that there are individuals who are willing to crash the funeral of someone they do not know in order to find out where great-grandma's brother's first wife's nephew had his dry goods store somewhere in North Dakota in the 1920's? And, why would anyone want to keep all those old books and papers that are written in Finnish?

We can't guarantee that all of these questions will be answered, but we know you will enjoy the October FACA program. Members of the Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota will introduce you to the world of Finnish genealogy as they know it. This group began with a handful of people who got together prior to FACA meetings to discuss their interest in Finnish family history research. Now a group of about 30-35 regulars meets monthly at the Minnesota Genealogy Center in Golden Valley "to promote and facilitate genealogical research through educational activities and programs." Since it began, the Finnish Genealogy Group has participated in several festivals and collaborated with the

Immigration History Research Center in the creation of a Genealogy Resource Room at Finn Fest 2002, held at the University of Minnesota.

At the October FACA meeting, members will give an overview of the group's history, growth and development, programs, and activities. FGG has given its members the opportunity to share experiences among themselves and meet with noted genealogists and historians from the US and Finland.

FACA PROGRAM

**Finnish Roots
Finnish Genealogy Group
Friday, October 21
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

FACA's new program season brought out a large crowd to hear architect David Salmela talk about his work and his ideas about home design. By our count, one hundred and forty people showed up. David's talk and accompanying slides gave me a lot of ideas to think about and I hope I can someday put them to good use. Some of you know Betsey and I are building a house up north; and I really like the idea of having a number of buildings, each with a purpose of its own but also contributing to the "whole" of the site. This project of ours is progressing and has made for a very busy summer—I'm hoping it will calm down a little for the winter.

The interest surveys we sent out last spring have come in and our treasurer, Andreas Ostenso, has done a great job compiling the results for the board. *Pikkujoulu* was one of the topics we asked about and it also provided a lot of comments. At our last board meeting we discussed some of the pros and cons of possibly changing *Pikkujoulu* to bring down the cost. Most people seemed to want to keep the dinner as a catered event as opposed to a potluck, and the menu should be as Finnish as possible. This provides a lot of challenges for the planners. We are trying to keep the costs as low as possible and hope to be able to keep the price at or near the same level as last year. Also, we might be holding the event a week later than originally planned; so that would make it December 17th instead of Dec. 10th. A lot of responses indicated that one of the major reasons for attending is the opportunity for visiting with friends and being able to make it a family event. That's the reason we hope to keep it going.

I was looking at the Virtual Finland website the other day and noticed an article about oddball Finnish "sporting events." The one that caught my eye was the new sport of mobile phone throwing. The world championships were held in Savonlinna this year and drew a crowd of three thousand spectators. A new world record was set with a distance of 94.97 meters. Contestants used phones supplied by the event organizers (you can't use your own phone even if you really would like to). And the prize for the winner? A new cell phone!

See you at the next meeting!



Welcome New Members!

Mary Belanger of Long Lake, MN.
Ben Horn of Minneapolis, MN
Deb Swanson of St. Paul, MN.

Tervetuloa!

Finlandia Foundation Grants

Applications for Finlandia Foundation national grants may be made at any time until February 1, 2006. The Grants Committee rates all applications according to the characteristics listed at the top of the application form.

Applications are available at www.finlandiafoundation.org. Final approval of winners is made at the annual meeting in March, 2006, and checks are mailed by May 15.

A historic list of both grants and scholarship awards up to 2003 appears in a recent publication, *Black Ties and Miners' Boots*, a 50-year history of the Finlandia Foundation 1953–2003. The book is available through the Finlandia Foundation National, 470 West Walnut Street, Pasadena, CA 91103-3594 or email: ffnoffice@mac.com.

Finnish Poem
Kiitos tiskeistä likaisista,
ne tarinaa kuiskuttaa:
Vaikka monella onkin nälkä,
meillä hyvin syödä saa!
Kun on koti ja terveys hyvä,
kuka itkeskelemään.
Tiskikasa lisääntyvä
on osoitus hyvydestään.

Thank God for dirty dishes,
they have a tale to tell.
While other folk go hungry,
we're eating very well.
With health and home and happiness,
now who would want to fuss,
For by this stack of evidence,
God's very good to us.
(Editor's note: After the recent disasters on the Gulf Coast, we have much to be thankful for—even if it is for dirty dishes!)

Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The FACA Board met on September 13 and started with the usual reports by the secretary and treasurer. The treasurer reported that we have received \$250 in membership dues in the past month.

The President's report included: a review of the Sattuma concert (which went \$50 into the red), a discussion of increasing publicity efforts by putting FACA ads in various newspapers, and changing the signing-in system at FACA meetings (a clipboard was passed around the room, instead of having people line up and sign in as they entered). Pikkujoulu was also discussed, and it will most likely be moved to the 17th, since Kauneimmat Joululaulut is scheduled for the 10th. A location still needs to be found.

Refreshments were planned for the upcoming program. The next board meeting will be Tuesday, October 18.

Gallen-Kallela Exhibit in Michigan

Finlandia University in Hancock, Michigan, will be having a Gallen-Kallela exhibit in January 2006, and is looking for any information on paintings he may have sold or donated to individuals during his stay in the United States from October 1924 to May 1926. Gallen-Kallela stayed in Hancock from February 9 to 14, 1924. Gallen-Kallela, known as the most prominent figure in pictorial art of Finland at the turn of the century, is best known for his landscape paintings and paintings depicting events from the epic poem, *Kalevala*. Most of the paintings sold during his stay in Michigan have been located, but the location of one painting that was donated to the Kalevattaren Tupa in Hancock is unknown. If you have any information to share with Finlandia University, contact Carrie Flaspohler, Gallery Director, at 906-487-7500 or email carrie.flaspohler@finlandia.edu.

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.

David Salmela, Architect

By Floyd Niskanen

A large crowd attended our September 2005 FACA meeting. Award winning architect, David Salmela, entertained us with an interesting and informative slide presentation which included much of his work.

He began by discussing his background in the predominately American Finnish farming community of Sebeka, Minnesota. Already then he noticed that farms and buildings affect the environment; and if they are planned and designed well, they can be beautiful. He also talked about his roots and connections to Finland and how that has influenced his work, especially later.

Mr. Salmela continued with slides from his work on the Iron Range which included some modernistic buildings. He said that around 1979 he began to explore other things such as folk art, farmsteads, and more familiar objects and to use them in his work. He said, "people need to see things familiar."

He spoke briefly about how complicated architectural solutions are, and also of the importance of the client relationship in creating a functional, aesthetic design with which they are happy. Good design lasts for ages, and he used Alvar Aalto's designs from the 1930's as an example. Mr. Aalto's designs are still appealing today.

He showed his award winning sauna, which he referred to as more modern, but functional. The brick walls take longer to heat, but then the walls give off a radiant softer heat. After the sauna, you can go up the stairs to a gable-roofed cooling room where breezes can blow through and you can see the surrounding scenery.

Jackson Meadows, a development community near Marine on St. Croix, won three other architectural awards this year. It will consist of 150 buildings—all different, and situated to utilize space and the environment to give the residents a feeling of community. Salmela follows five basic rules in designing all the homes in the community. Thirty-four units are complete now, and they are all different.

The program concluded with questions and answers, followed by refreshments and book signing.



Emerson Sauna, from *Salmela Architech* by Thomas Fisher.

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.

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.)

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Unique Finnish Classes Offered

Here is a great new opportunity to learn Finnish with a unique method. Finnish language classes will be held at Cartford Language Services at the Lake Calhoun Executive Center in Minneapolis on Wednesdays, October 26 through December 14. Finnish for Beginners will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Finnish for Accelerated Advanced Beginners and Intermediate (for people who know some Finnish and want more speaking and interaction with others) will be from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The teacher, Dennis Halme, is originally from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. He grew up around Finnish-speaking family and friends, but attained mastery of Finnish language skills through self-study and interaction. He knows the process of learning a language. Dennis is as resourceful and spontaneous in teaching language as he is at playing the accordion!

The courses are taught through an approach called TPR Storytelling--Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling. TPRS is a highly engaging, motivating, and effective language teaching method that promotes successful language learning for all students. TPR Storytelling personalizes learning, ensures comprehension, incorporates higher order thinking skills, taps into creativity and enhances literacy skills through a contextualized language learning experience.

The cost is \$112 for 7 lessons. The dates are October 26, November 2, 9, 16, 30, December 7, and 14. To register, send your name, address, phone, email and a check for \$112 written to Dennis Halme to Cartford Language Services, 3033 Excelsior Blvd, Suite #10, Minneapolis, 55416. If you have any questions, call Barbara Cartford at 612-408-7342 or email her at barbaracartford@hotmail.com.

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

Annual Scholarship Phonathon for Salolampi

By Evelyn Eskeli

Please accept a call! Board members and friends of Salolampi will be making hundreds of calls nationwide again this year for the scholarship program. **YOUR SUPPORT THIS YEAR IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER.**



This Phonathon is the major appeal that provides approximately \$25,000 to help defray tuition costs and make attendance at Salolampi more affordable to families. As the number of villagers increases, the number of dollars raised must also increase. Every villager receives some scholarship assistance to reduce the real cost of attendance. The Board's goal is to eventually fill all the summer sessions with Finnish villagers.

A postcard will be mailed before November 1 to remind donors that they can expect a Phonathon call on November 1, 2 or 3. If readers know that they will be unavailable those evenings they may donate early by sending a check to the Salolampi Foundation, PO Box 14480, Minneapolis MN 55414-0480.

Volunteers are needed to staff the 14 on-site phones at the Lutheran Community Foundation offices in the Thrivent Financial Building in downtown Minneapolis. Please call 612-359-9805 or email eeskeli@usfamily.net if you can help. Calls may also be made from home sites. Let's support our Finnish youth by helping the Salolampi Foundation raise the necessary scholarship funds. **SALOLAMPI IS A SPECIAL PLACE!**

More Calendar:

Oct. 29, Sat. *Straw Hat, Felt Slipper and the Big Bang*, a Finnish children's opera composed by Markus Fagerrud, will be performed at the Finnish Language School of Minnesota (Suomi-koulu) at Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Avenue South, Minneapolis, from 10:00 to 10:30 a.m. This opera had its American premiere this summer at Finn Grand Fest in Marquette, Michigan. Local sopranos Eeva Savolainen and Julie Hanson Geist will portray the main characters along with child actors from the Marquette Area Youth Theatre. It is performed in Finnish with English narrations. This is a free performance. See www.minnesotafinnish.org or contact Eeva Savolainen at esavolainen@attbi.com.

Oct. 30, Sun. Finnish Sunday at the Leiv Eriksson International Festival at Mindekirken Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 924 E. 21st. St., Minneapolis, 11:00 a.m. The Suomi-koulu children will sing hymns, led by Elina Ruppert. She will also read the texts, and everyone can join in singing Finnish hymns. A coffee hour will follow the service. See www.mindekirken.org for more details on the Festival.



Nov. 1–3, Tues–Thurs.

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

Nov. 18, Fri. November FACA program will feature the company, *Saunatec*.

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/cmhs/fahs.html.

Epämuodollinen Rukous

Näin sanoi diakoni Lemuel:

“Jos oikein rukoillaan,
ei muuta tapaa olekaan
kuin maassa polvillaan.”

“Ei,” sanoi siihen pastori,
“voi rukoilla vain näin:
Kädet ja silmät nostetaan
hartaasti ylöspäin.”

Oi, ei, ei, piispasta se on
liiaksi korskeaa.
Jos silmät sulkee, painaa pään,
nöyryyttä osoittaa.

“Minusta hänen ristiä
kätensä pitäisi,
peukalot maahan osoittaa,”
esitti tohtori.

“Mä kerran kaivoon putosin,”
Janhunen kertoi näin,
“Ylhäällä keikkui anturat
ja pää ol alaspäin.

Mä heti siinä rukoilin
parhaimman rukouksen,
rukouksellisimman rukouksen,
päälläni seisoen.”

Sam Walter Foss



Ernie Bantari discusses Salolampi at their booth at Finn Grand Fest in August.

Pieniä Paloja

•A very big *kiitos* to the members of the board who helped with refreshments at our September FACA program, especially to **Luella Zibell, Barb Owens, and Doris and Richard Harju**. Remember to contact Richard Harju at 763-784-9522 if you would like to help.

•For **Finnish & Scandinavian** movies, music, books, apparel, food, jewelry, and more, check www.nordicthings.com.

•We still have a few copies available of **architect David Salmela's book** that was for sale at the September FACA Program. Contact Floyd Niskanen or Andreas Ostenso (see page 2 for contact information). They books will also be available at the October program, if there are any left.

•**Silja Line** sent its 1556 berth car/passenger ferry *Finnjet* to the Gulf Coast of the United States to serve as emergency accommodation for a medical school in the region struck by Hurricane Katrina. The vessel is to provide housing for staff and students at the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, which has been moved to a site alongside the Mississippi in Baton Rouge, roughly 100 miles upstream from its former home in New Orleans. *Finnjet* was estimated to arrive in the area on October 2nd. As it happens, the vessel was to have made its last run on September 23rd. *Finnjet* was built in 1977, originally with gas turbine engines, and was at the time among the fastest vessels afloat, with a top speed in excess of 30 knots. Fuel consumption at those speeds was, however, prohibitive. A more economical conventional diesel-electric propulsion unit was added during a 1981 refit. For nearly 20 years from her maiden voyage the vessel was in regular year-round service. The decision to charter out the ship will doubtless be welcomed by Silja Line. Plans reported only a few days previously suggested the vessel would no longer return to the summer route next year due to problems with profitability. It was thought she would be laid up in Falmouth in the U.K., pending a possible sale.

•Finns are buying **larger cars** in increasing numbers: urban 4x4's, SUV's people-carriers, etc., and retailers are having to redo parking lots and multi-

story car-parks to match. One in three road accidents in Finland takes place, not on the highway, but in a parking lot. Insurance companies are paying over EUR 33 million annually in claims. Two decades ago, you could get by with parking spaces 210 centimeters wide, now the guideline is 250 centimeters; but some say they should be at least 270 or 280 cm. wide.

•Finland, land of the reserved Finn, seems to ironically be the home of **odd sports** and "off-the-wall" competitions. Towns across the country draw visitors to world championships including swamp soccer, endurance sauna sitting, wife-carrying and air guitar. The Mobile-Phone Throwing World Championships were held this past August in Savonlinna. Mikko Lampi heaved a Siemens AG cell phone 94.97 meters to win the event and set a world record. The first competition was held in 2000; Norway, Germany and the Netherlands now hold their own national competitions, sending the winners to Finland for the National Competition. Nokia does not sponsor the event, stating that: "Mobile-phone-throwing hasn't met the requirements that we set for events we choose to sponsor."

•The year 2005 will be a record-breaking year for **tornados** in Finland. The Finnish Meteorological Institute has already recorded some 40 occurrences of twisters so far. In comparison, the year 1997 was the previous record year with 19 tornados. According to the Finnish Meteorological Institute, the weather in July and August was humid enough to create tornado conditions; and moreover, turbulent flows were typical in the lower layers of the atmosphere. Such local tornados will not necessarily become common or permanent features of the climate. Only two people have been killed by tornados in Finland, back in the 1930's. This past summer, an F1 tornado touched down at the *Tali* Golf Course in Helsinki, injuring nine people. A mini-tornado, from the same storm, hit the *Kirkkonummi* district of Helsinki, knocking down hundreds of trees and electricity poles.

•The number of **endangered species** is up in Finland. The Ministry of the Environment's suggestion for the new nature conservation act includes a list of 1,410 endangered species. The current number is 1,300. Among the species now considered endangered are Temminck's stint from the sand-piper family, the barred warbler, the grass snake and the spined loach. Finland's most celebrated endangered species, the flying squirrel, also remains on the list.



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. 15, Sat. Suomi-koulu (Finnish School) meets at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Bring your children for Finnish language instruction, as well as lessons in Finnish culture, games and singing, every other Saturday. Cost: \$50 per semester. Contact Risto Sivula for more details at risto.ann@usfamily.net.

Oct. 18, Tues. FACA Board meeting at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection at 7:30 p.m. Call any board member for more details (see p. 2). Visitors welcome.

Oct. 19, Wed. *The Moijakka Poijat*, Dick Rees, on accordion and Ralph Tuttila on mandolin, will be playing weekly from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at *Sisu Coffee and Tea*, 649 Snelling Ave S., St. Paul, 651-695-1960, or contact Ralph at 651-578-0156 or raulit@msn.com.

Oct. 21, Fri. *The Moijakka Poijat*, Dick Rees, on accordion and Ralph Tuttila on mandolin, will be playing weekly from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the *Russian Tea House*, 1758 University Ave., St. Paul, 651-646-4144.

Oct. 21, Fri. Finn Hall band plays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Kramarczuk's Deli and Sausage Co., at 215 E. Hennepin, Minneapolis. Great food and dance space. \$2 cover charge. Call 612-379-3018 for details, or see www.finnhall.com.

Oct. 21, Fri. FACA Monthly program featuring Finnish Genealogy Group, at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute of St. Paul, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

Oct. 22, Sat. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota monthly meeting, 9:30–12:30, at 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy, Golden Valley. Duane Wiita will speak about John Swan/Schwan. See www.minnesotafinnish.org or email ds1940@aol.com for more details.

Oct. 26, Wed. Deadline for articles, calendar events, poems, book reviews, news items, etc. for the November/December FACA newsletter (remember, there is no newsletter in December). See p. 2 for contact information. Pictures can be sent directly to Beth Jarvis.

Calendar continued p 6.