

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2005

Saunas

David Salmela, Architect

By Floyd Niskanen

“An Uncommon Architect,” was the heading in the Star Tribune Arts Section on March 20, 2005. It was an article about David Salmela who won two American Institute of Architects Honor Awards this year. One was for a sauna he designed and the other was for the subdivision he is designing called “Jackson Meadows”, which is near Marine on St. Croix.



The sauna that won the award was designed for Pete and Cindy Emerson at their home north of Duluth. To quote the Star Tribune, “The two story sauna is an anomaly: This humble building stands alongside the high profile Jubilee Church in Rome and the Seattle Central Library in winning a 2005 national architecture award.”

At the September meeting, David Salmela will use a slide presentation to show and discuss saunas. We will see slides of his award-winning sauna and some other saunas, etc. that he has designed.

FACA PROGRAM

Saunas
David Salmela
Friday, September 16
7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul

If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
at 612-374-2718

David Salmela grew up in Sebeka, Minnesota—one corner of the Finnish triangle—and he graduated from high school there. David is a self taught architect who says, “Everything I have done, I have had to learn on my own.” This is surprising, considering all the awards he has won over the years: the lectures he has given at Harvard and UCLA, and the book written about his work.

Come enjoy his presentation at the September meeting and the refreshments afterwards.

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

It has been another busy summer for me, and I have to wonder where the time has all gone. FACA sponsored two concerts this summer, and they were both wonderful examples of Finnish Folk music. The first one was the Sattuma family ensemble from

Petroskoi/Petrosavodsk in Karelia. This quartet consisted of Arto Rinne and his daughter, Eila, and Dima Demin and his son, Vladik. Their program was a mix of Finnish and Russian traditional and contemporary music played on a variety of instruments. The second concert was by the Three Rivers Kantele Ensemble, a group of six kantele players and one accordion player. They were from the Haapavesi area; and they played a mix of folk, contemporary and classical music. Both concerts had very enthusiastic audiences that included a lot of non-FACA members—a good way for FACA to improve its visibility in the Twin Cities. Another interesting and fun sidelight of both programs was hosting the groups. It's a great way to make new friends and renew old acquaintances.

At our May meeting we had two members decide to serve on the board; Richard Harju and Barb Nikula-Owens are now serving as Members at-Large. We have decided to redefine the positions a little. Board members' duties can overlap so much that the positions of Special Events chair and Hospitality chair are now called Members at-Large. One of the great things about our board is that everyone pitches in and helps each other so no one has to do all of the work for special events like Pikkujoulu and Laskiainen. Actually, all the board members are really at large—no one does only what their position specifies, but we do what we feel we are able to do. We are keeping the four traditionally defined positions of President (myself), Vice President (Floyd Niskanen), Secretary (Luella Zibell) and Treasurer (Andreas Ostenso); but the lines between them are very blurred. I would also like to extend an invitation to any FACA member to attend any of our board meetings. It's a good way to see what the board does, and it might help you decide if board membership might be something you could try.

I have a request of our membership. This year we need to put a more concerted effort into expanding our membership, so we have started advertising our meetings in various local publications and Finnish-American newspapers. Please let the board members know of any publications (with free or low cost ads for meetings) you can think of—we may not have thought of all of them yet. Also, if you have some neighbors or friends that might be interested in Finnish culture, bring them along to a meeting. It's always a lot easier for newcomers to have a friend along when going to a meeting for the first time. Thanks in advance for your help. See you at the September meeting!!



Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The June 21, 2005 FACA Board meeting was called to order by President Al Norgard at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. He welcomed all to the meeting and introduced new board members Richard Harju and Barbara Nikula Owens.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the May 17th meeting were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Andreas Ostenso reported a balance of \$7,378.21 in the current checking account, and a balance of \$1,877.28 in the other account. Membership dues receipts totaled \$575. Sales tax of \$431 was paid. MSC will consolidate the two checking accounts.

President's Report: New members Richard Harju and Barbara Nikula Owens were welcomed to the Board and their assignments were discussed.

Al reported that a committee meeting to wrap up final details of the Vappu Celebration is scheduled. The games, food and entertainment were well received by those attending. There may have been too much entertainment scheduled—the performance times were very short.

Andreas reported on the FACA questionnaire that was circulated among FACA members at monthly meetings. Reports show that the monthly programs are important and should be continued, as are the coffee times. Educational programs are well received; experts in various fields who have a Finnish connection were suggested as possible programs. One reply suggested having more musical programs, especially contemporary. As far as publicity goes, the consensus was that we should try to get into the calendars of our daily papers, local papers, the *New World Finn*, *Finnish-American Reporter*, and onto bulletin boards in our places of work or worship. We hope to receive more replies to the questionnaire before our next meeting.

Vergene Routhe and Ruth Ann Swanson have expressed a need for hospitality helpers.

A grant of \$1500 from the Finlandia Foundation has been received to help with our display at the American Swedish Institute. The funds will be used to hire musicians and to purchase semi-permanent display materials.

An email update on the Expatriate Parliament was received. Maija Maki-Laurila will attend as a voting member.

The FACA Website needs to be updated to make it more accessible. Adding key words and pictures would be helpful. Al will speak with Beth Jarvis.

An email communication was received from a student in Finland seeking a position as an intern. Consensus was that we are not in a position to accommodate this request.

Vice-President-Programs: Floyd Niskanen reported that he has lined up David Salmela, architect, for September's program; the Genealogy Group for October; and Saunatec for November. Pikkujoulu will be in December.

Audit: Al and Andreas will name auditors to reconcile the treasurer's records as of June 30, 2005.

Board Job Descriptions: Al reviewed the descriptions as delineated by Ernie Banttari on June 16, 2003, with the aim of organizing the Board, and giving the new members an opportunity to find the right niche. It was agreed that Al would continue as President and Luella as Secretary. At our next meeting we will name the officers and chairs still vacant.

The next meeting of the Board will be Tuesday, August 16, at the same location.

American-Scandinavian Foundation Scholarship Available

Over \$900,000 will be offered by the American-Scandinavian Foundation to outstanding American and Scandinavian students, scholars, professionals and artists in its 2006–2007 award program. Fellowships of up to \$20,000 are intended to support a year-long stay, and priority is given to students at the dissertation level who need to spend time at foreign academic or research institutions. Grants beginning at \$2,000 are considered more suitable for post-doctoral scholars, established professionals, and artists who can conduct research and establish collaborative professional ties during shorter visits. Funding is available to candidates in all fields.

Fellowships and grants are awarded competitively, based on qualifications of the applicants, the significance and feasibility of the projects, and the merit of pursuing the program overseas. The American competition has a deadline of November 1. For further information and applications, see the ASF website at www.amscan.org or contact them at 212-879-9779 or grants@amscan.org.

In Memory of Margaret Norling

Margaret Norling, born February 15, 1918 in Minneapolis to Alfred & Ella (Bekum) Johnson, died June 1, 2005. She attended Roosevelt High and was a 1940 graduate of the U of M. She married her childhood sweetheart, Gene Norling, on Oct. 11, 1941. Margaret was a librarian for a number of years before becoming a music teacher for the Minneapolis Public Schools. She retired in 1978. Since retiring she played bass in several area orchestras, U of M Alumni Band and around the world with ethnic folk groups. She often played for the Finn Hall Band with Ralph Tuttila, who says, "We will dearly miss her music. She was a busy musician—Finn Hall was one of many groups in which she played. Mostly we will miss her inspiration, warmth and happy outlook on life and her sense of humor, as will all who knew her." Margaret was involved with Sons of Norway (Vonheim Lodge), AAUW, ASI exercise group and sat on the board of GTCYS. She is preceded in death by her husband, Gene, her parents, and a brother, Leon. She is survived by sons, Rolland (Cheryl Iverson), Leon (Patricia); grandchildren, Kathleen Ella and Gene Arvid; brother, Alfred (Betty) Johnson; sister, Joyce Wakefield; sister-in-law, Lorraine Johnson, 30 year friend and colleague, Cheryl Paschke, nephews, cousins and an endless circle of friends. A memorial and celebration of Margaret's life was held Saturday, June 25, 2005 at Mindekirken.

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.

Finnish Schools Get High Rating

According to an article in the Washington Post last May, Finnish schools are among the best on the earth. Educators from around the world are visiting Finnish schools in droves. Finland finished first in the Program for International Student Assessment exams that test 15-year-olds in all the world's industrial democracies. Finland also finished at or near the top in many global comparisons of economic competitiveness: internet usage, environmental practices and more.

As recently as the 1970's, Finland required that children attend school for just six years. Since then, new laws supported by substantial government spending created a system that graduates nearly every young person from vocational or high school, and sends nearly half of them on to higher education. Schooling is rigorous and free.

But the main reason for the high quality of education in Finland seems to be the high quality of teachers in Finland. You need a college-level degree to run a kindergarten and a master's level degree to teach at a primary school. Teachers are respected, and many of the best students want to become teachers.

The Finns' faith in education comes from deep in the national character of the country. Because of its lack of natural resources (beyond fish and timber) Finns came to realize that education was the best antidote to poverty. Education is Finland's determined effort to make a comfortable place for itself in the modern world.

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 _____

Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography

The Katherine E. Nash Gallery is pleased to present *Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography*. The exhibition opens August 30 and runs through October 6, 2005. The Nash Gallery is located in the University of Minnesota's Regis Center for Art, 405 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, on the U of M's West Bank campus. A public reception is scheduled for Friday, September 9, from 6-8:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.– 8 p.m.

In conjunction with the exhibition, there will be an academic symposium titled *Picture, Place, Power* on September 23–24, In-Flux Room, Regis Center for Art. For details see the website: www.esc.umn.edu/BoundaryCrossings.htm. The symposium's program will be available at www.esc.umn.edu/FinnishStudies.html

All events are free and open to the public. Parking is available in the 21st Avenue Ramp.

Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography approaches photography as a medium which transgresses academic, artistic, and national boundaries. The exhibition explores the relationship between art and science and highlights the role of Finland as a cultural mediator between East and West. The Finns have historically been pioneers in combining artistic and scientific approaches to visual representation and in exploring northern cultures and Russian Siberia.

Boundary Crossings' approach draws from the recent, increasingly international debates about the subjectivity of academic research, the role of science in art, and in the education of artists. One important emphasis in these debates has been the role of photography in colonial endeavors, nation-building, cultural identity politics and the power of representation. These debates question the objectivity of the lens in the general context of postmodernism and post-colonialism. It is now recognized that even documentary photographs contain strongly subjective elements and those who have the power to represent hold considerable power over our perceptions and views. *Boundary Crossings* provides this discourse with historical and contemporary fuel.

The union of contemporary art and past explorations is constructed through the work of four Finnish photographic artists. Johannes Gabriel (J.G.) Granö's photographs from early twentieth-century Russian Siberia (from the collection of the Finnish Literature Society) represent internationally acknowledged pioneering work in the merging of art and science. Granö's influential academic work on landscape research placed a strong emphasis on visual elements in the understanding of how we perceive, and connect to, landscapes. In *Boundary Crossings*, the work of three contemporary photographers—Jorma Puranen, Pentti Sammallahti, and Taneli Eskola—expands upon Granö's classical work by revisiting the North and the East in Russia and Finland. Some of this contemporary work is previously unpublished. Sammallahti and Puranen are among Finland's leading art photographers, whose work has attracted considerable international attention. Eskola, Finland's first Doctor of Art from the University of Art and Design Helsinki (1996), is a photographic artist and academic researcher of the exhibition's central theme. Taneli Eskola is the curator of this exhibition.

A similarly titled book about the images and themes of *Boundary Crossings* will be available for purchase at the exhibition. The English- and Finnish-language book is edited by the exhibition's curator, Dr. Taneli Eskola, and published by *Musta Taide Publishing Company* (Helsinki, 2005).

Boundary Crossings will be first exhibited in the United States at the Nash Gallery. It will then be available for other locations. The exhibition is organized by Dr. Pauliina Raento, Government of Finland/ David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies at the University of Minnesota (2003-2005). For more information, call Nick Shank at (612) 624-6518.

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

FinnGrandFest 2005

By Beth Jarvis

I drove to Marquette, Michigan to attend FinnGrandFest on Wednesday, August 10. This was the second FinnFest I've attended. The first was the one held in Minneapolis several years ago.

I headed to campus where I spotted some friends from the Finnish *Oppi-Tunti* class and found someone I'd planned to meet. The Marquette FinnGrandFest was fortunate to have a wonderful regional shuttle bus transit system. Participants were picked up from their motels and brought to campus or shuttled among several points on campus or among venues. On Saturday, the shuttles were harder to catch because there were many more people there due to the weekend. But, it was great to leave the car in the motel parking lot for the duration of the festival.

I heard some very good presentations. On Thursday, a presentation on Finnish migration to the United States pointed out that most of our ancestors came from Ostrobothnia in western Finland. In this region, farms were passed down to the eldest son, and the rest of the kids had to find their own way. Of the 400,000 migrants from Finland before 1930, 20% returned to Finland. Those who stayed in the U.S. more than 5 years were less likely to go home. Finland, in 1900, had a population of 2 million, so losing 400,000 people was a lot. Immigrants in Finland today account for about 2% of the total population. (It's not uncommon to see young Ethiopians speaking fluent Finnish.)

The presentation on Finland during World War II was very interesting.. There's a new school of thought that claims Finland wasn't quite as innocent in her dealings with the Nazis as has been previously claimed. Eight Jews, Russian prisoners of war, were sent to Germany. Approximately 500 political dissidents were deported. This new school of thought has been proposed by Elina Sana. (The earlier position was championed by Michael Barry.) Yet, given the circumstances, it was quite understandable. Finland had virtually no war supplies when the Russians invaded and had a long history of sending men to Germany to study the German military. Russia was an Allied country, so Finland had few choices for allies. The U.S. and England didn't want to declare war on Finland, yet Finland received war material from the Nazis and had Nazi troops in the country.

Did you know that the use of the *Molotov* cocktail, while not invented by the Finns, was perfected by

them during the Winter War? They also discovered that a tree trunk jammed into a tank's track effectively separated the track from the tank, disabling the tank. It was the sort of stuff that just warmed the cockles of your heart.

The Winter War was a major theme of FinnGrandFest. There was a Winter War Museum—an outside battlement display complete with soldier re-enactors and goods for sale. The upcoming PBS special about the Winter War, *Fire and Ice*, was shown. It was fabulous!! I can't believe that Russian and Finnish men re-enact the battles of the Winter War together! My only grouse was the mispronunciation of Finnish place names by the narrator. But, when it airs here, see it!!!



Winter War re-enactor

Thursday evening, I saw the play *Gala Day at the Cooperative Store*. It was a cute, amateur production by Finlandia University. It was fun for anyone who grew up among cooperatives and remembers the color-coded canned goods.

The next day I saw the movie *Letters from Karelia*, and the *Nyt Naura* (Now Laugh) skit. Understanding some Finnish enhanced the charm of this sister act.

I watched some of the wife carrying races and saw the winning couple. They'd competed in Finland last year. There are 2 styles: the normal piggy-back carry and the Estonian style of wife carrying, which is the inverted form where her head is down and her legs are around her partner's neck.

I spent more than I'd planned at the *tori* (marketplace), but I got to meet Richard Impola who has translated many of the classics of Finnish literature, such as Kalle Päätalo's *Our Daily Bread* and Väino Linna's *Under the North Star* trilogy. I thanked him for translating these epics. (They are available through the University of

cont. next page

Minnesota Libraries. They can be requested through inter-library loans through your neighborhood library.) I met Borje Vähämäki, who wrote *Mastering Finnish* and appears on the companion audio tapes.

The “chairs” were a big draw. There were hundreds of blue and white chairs all around the major venues. They had been prepared, often as memorials, by and for families. Many were very cleverly done.

It was an interesting three days. Next year the event will be in Astoria, Oregon.

Some Finn Grand Fest Images



Wife carrying contestants



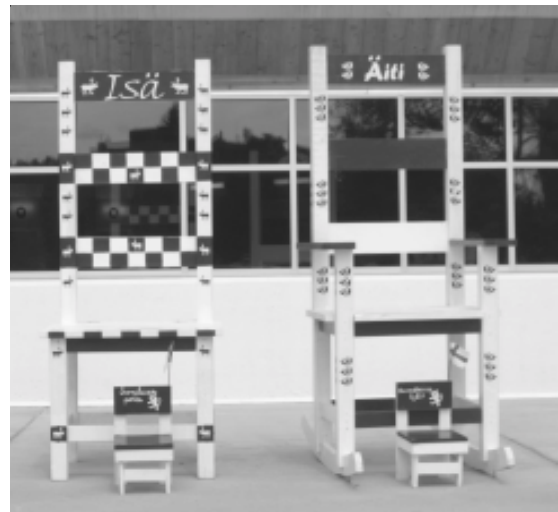
These Makis ski!

New Finnish-American History Available

The Immigration History Research Center (IHRC) at the University of Minnesota is pleased to announce that *The Nelson Brothers: Finnish-American Radicals from the Mendocino Coast* by Allan Nelson, has been published and is now available from the Center. Download the information flyer and order form from www.ihrc.umn.edu/marketplace.nelsonbkorderform05.pdf. The book is an important contribution to the history of Finnish Americans. One of the fascinating things about this story is that both sides of an exchange of letters were available to the author; because his father, Arvid, copied the letters he sent to his brother Enoch in Soviet Karelia and kept the copies along with the replies.

Pieniä Paloja

- The best source for the latest and most detailed information on every kind of **Finnish music** is the Finnish Music Information Center, www.fimic.fi. Information is also available from these sources: Finlandia Hall, (358-9) 402-41, finlandia.hel.fi/english; Finnish National Opera, (358-9) 4030-2211, www.ooppera.fi; The Sibelius Academy, (358-20) 753-90, www.siba.fi; Savonlinna Festival, (358-15) 476-750, www.operafestival.fi; Kuhmo Chamber Festival, (358-9) 493-867 www.kuhmofestival.fi.



Father, mother, Finnish boy and Finnish girl chairs



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

Aug. 30–Oct. 6 *Boundary Crossings: Temporal Dialogues in Finnish Landscape Photography* exhibit at the Nash Gallery in the University of Minnesota's Regis Center for Art, 405-21st Avenue South, Minneapolis, on the U of M's West Bank campus. A public reception is scheduled for Friday, September 9, from 6-8:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Thursday, Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m. The exhibit is free. (See p. 5).

Sept. 11–16 Salolampi Finnish Language Village Fall Adult Week. Come sharpen your Finnish language skills, learn Finnish crafts, dances and songs, see Finnish films, and listen to presentations about culture and history. The cooking staff will delight you with new Finnish foods filled with herbs and flavor, as well as traditional Finnish delicacies. The sauna will be warmed almost every night, and you can choose to take a dip in Turtle River Lake...or not. The cost is \$455 (\$355 for commuters). Travel and Finder's fee scholarships may be available. For information and scholarship details, call 800-450-2214 or see www.salolampi.org.

Sept. 16, Fri. FACA Monthly Program featuring famous Finnish American architect, David Salmela, at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

Sept. 16–18 Salolampi Fall Work Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji. Come clean, paint, cut wood, etc. while enjoying nightly entertainment, Finnish films, Finnish food and the sauna, free of charge. To sign up, contact Milo Laitinen at 218-564-4266 or laitinen@wcta.net.

Sept. 17, Sat. Finnish conductor of the Minnesota Orchestra, Osmo Vänskä, opens the performance season with a concert featuring Beethoven, Adams and Ravel. For tickets, call 612-371-5642 or check the website at minnesotaorchestra.org.

Sept. 21, Wed. October FACA newsletter deadline. Send articles to Tiina Watts and pictures to Beth Jarvis. Please be on time! See p. 2 for contact information.

Sept. 23–24, Fri.–Sat. Academic symposium in conjunction with the *Boundary Crossings* exhibition (see Aug. 30 entry), titled *Picture, Place, Power, In-Flux Room*, Regis Center for Art. For details see the website: www.esc.umn.edu/BoundaryCrossings.htm. The symposium's program will be available at www.esc.umn.edu/FinnishStudies.html.

Oct. 1, Sat. Pasty Sales at two locations: 13030 47th Avenue N., Plymouth, from 9:00 am. to 1:00 pm. and 741 Ibarra Avenue NE, St. Michael, from 9:00 am. to 2:00 pm. For more details call Mary Hillukka at 763-477-4723.

October 21, Fri. FACA Monthly program featuring Finnish Genealogy Group.

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; email eeskeli@usfamily.net, or Linda Davis at 763 420 3237; email ldavismn@hotmail.com.