

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2006

Culture, Language and Bilingualism.

Kulttuuri, kieli ja kaksikielisyys

By Jukka Kukkonen

Come to this interactive session ready to share your thoughts and learn more about how others see the interaction of culture, language, and bilingualism in their lives.

This session will be facilitated by Jukka Kukkonen, a teacher in The Finnish Language School of Minnesota (Suomi-koulu) here in Minneapolis. This fall, he is starting a new course for adults called *Raising Bilingual Children*; and in this session he will also share his views of how bilingualism can be nourished today.

Jukka Kukkonen grew up on a small dairy farm in Savonlinna, Finland. He has worked in engineering, business development, training, and organizational development. He met his wife Susie through work and moved to the US in 2002. Here in the Twin Cities Jukka has been very actively involved with the Finnish community. He has been a teacher at Suomi-koulu since 2003 and is responsible for publishing the monthly Minnesota Suomi-info e-newsletter and developing the MinnesotaFinnish.org web pages.

Tule mukaan jakamaan mietteitäsi ja oppimaan kuinka toiset kokevat kulttuurin, kielen ja kaksikielisuuden vuorovaikutuksen elämässämme.



SEPTEMBER FACCA PROGRAM

**Culture, Language and
Bilingualism.**

Jukka Kukkonen

September 15

7:30 p.m.

International Institute

1694 Como Ave., St. Paul

If you need transportation, call

Marianne Wargelin

at 612-374-2718

Tämän englanninkielisen luennon vetää Minnesotan Suomi-koulun opettaja Jukka Kukkonen. Tänä syksynä hän aloittaa Suomi-koulussa uuden Kaksikielisten Lasten Kasvatus -kurssin ja kertoo tällä luennolla myös uusista keinoista kaksikielisuuden kehittämiseksi.

Jukka Kukkonen kasvoi pienellä maatilalla Savonlinnassa. Hän on työskennellyt tekniikan, liiketoiminnan kehittämisen, koulutuksen ja valmennuksen saralla. Jukka tapasi vaimonsa Susien työn kautta ja muutti Minnesotaan 2002. Hän on opettanut Suomi-koulussa vuodesta 2003 lähtien. Opettajan työn lisäksi Jukka vastaa Minnesotan Suomi-infon ja Suomi-sivujen toiminnasta.

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

I hope everyone had a good summer season this year and the drought didn't affect you too badly. Our gardens didn't produce very well this year, but we were able to get a taste of fresh "veggies" anyway. The pick-your-own berry farms were fairly good to us this summer, as the berries ripened when we had a chance to go and pick. We have a good supply of blueberries and strawberries put away for the winter. Our work "up on the farm" continues with lots of chores waiting for us each weekend, but little by little the yard is beginning to shape up and the new house chores consist mostly of painting.

Our board has added Kaarina Kotkavuori this year. We would like to welcome her back as she served only a few years ago and has decided to help us out again. At the last board meeting in June the job titles were decided on, and I will give you a quick rundown. I will be continuing as president for another year (and I hope to be able to come up with something to write about in the newsletter each month). As vice president, Floyd Niskanen will be arranging the programs again for this year. Please let him know of any possible programs or speakers that you might know of for future meetings. Luella Zibell will continue on as secretary for an unprecedented sixth year. Thanks so much for your dedication and work, Luella—you are a great secretary and we are glad to have you on the board. Andreas Ostenso, as treasurer, will keep track of our expenses again this year and help us keep track of the membership dues. Barb Owens will be working with Kaarina as our two members at large on the usual variety of jobs like Pikkujoulu and Laskiainen (along with all the other board members). Unfortunately, Richard Harju has decided to leave the board this year for personal reasons. *Kiitoksia paljon*, and a job well done for your work in the last year.

Another change is coming in the next year. Tiina Watts, our newsletter editor, is going to transition out of her position in anticipation of a possible move out of state. We are sure going to miss her talents and dedication to putting out a high quality *Uutiset* each month. She started doing the newsletter about eight years ago and has the job pretty well broken down to an easily learned system and would like to have a person (or persons) work with her for an issue or two to learn the ropes. The *Uutiset* is an important part of our organization that we can't neglect, so if you have an interest in "editing;" or would like to work as part of a team, please let Tiina or the board know. We will do everything we can to help you out.

A group of Finnish forest owners will be coming to town on September 16 and then traveling to Grand Rapids the next day. There will be an opportunity to meet with them briefly on Sunday morning, September 17, at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. If you are interested, contact me about details.

Remember to set aside Saturday, December 9th, for the annual *Pikkujoulu* celebration. We will be back at the Roseville Olympic Room and hope you can participate. More details will be coming in future newsletters.



Finnish Cafe a Success!

By Merja Wilenius and Junelle Bernard

Kiitos kaikille—thank you to all—who came to help with the Finnish Cafe from May 3 (set-up) through May 7! We sold strawberry shortcake, lemon sugar cookies, chocolate tortes, *piirakka*, as well as our egg coffee, pulla, and herring. It is always enjoyable to visit with people from other countries, as well as the Finnish exchange students and other students. This is a good time to share information about Finland, as well as to learn about other countries and cultures and their foods.

Thank you to: Bob and Maryalice Jones, Jane and Anna Olson, George Salo, Ernie and Marlene Banttari, Stuart and Laura Bernard, Linda Davis, Mary Oberg Hanf, Luella Zibell, Wayne Mikkola, Ray and Carol Pesola, Kaarina Kotkavuori, Kathy Jackson, Edsel and Elma Huotari, Tiina and Leila Watts, Bert and Anita Johnson, Pam and Urho Rahkola, Natalie, Gwen, and Amanda Tatz, Bob Nelson, Dixie Luoma, Bette and Aune Ruskanen, Clyde and Theresa Lund, Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Betty Wheelcor, Margaret and Veijo Paine, Andreas Ostenso, Floyd Niskanen, Richard Harju, Archie Lahti, Anita and Ron Wiemari, Marlyn and Ruth Ervasti, Bernice Kuure, Anna Kuure-Kinsey, Ruthanne Swanson, Gene Karjala, and Mary Bull.

FinnFest 2008 in Duluth

Finnfest 2008, *Sharing the Spirit of Finland*, will be held July 23-27, 2008, at UMD and the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. Proceeds will support the FinnFest Scholarship, established from the success of FinnFest '92. An estimated 7,000 are expected to attend the five-day celebration in 2008. Honorary chairs are award-winning architect David Salmela and celebrated chef Beatrice Ojakangas.

Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The Board met on August 15th to receive the regular reports and to set in motion the 2006-07 program year for FACA.

Items for discussion and decision included the September meeting, programs for the year, and the assignment of duties for Board members.

Plans for meeting with the *Metsälehti* group on their visit here September 16 and 17 were discussed—a Sunday morning breakfast at the Clarion is the most likely venue. FACA will notify other Finnish-American organizations about this group's visit as well.

Al Norgard, Andreas Ostenso, and Kaarina Kotkavuori represent FACA at the Twin Cities Finnish Network meetings.

Pikkujoulu will be held December 9th at the Roseville Skating Center, and *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* on December 16.

FACA members are welcome at Board meetings which are held at The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville at 7:30 p.m. the week before the FACA meeting. Please call any Board member for more information.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The Uutiset needs a new editor. There are nine issues per year. The job involves collecting the news on a timely basis that goes into the Uutiset 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 tiuwatts@usfamily.net.

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.

Fun at FinnFest 2006

By Urho Rahkola

Pam and I attended the FinnFest in Astoria and Naselle this past July. We had a good time visiting our relatives in the Port Angeles/Portland/Astoria areas, as well as attending many FinnFest events. One of the highlights of FinnFest, for us was the nature walk to see the 600- to 1000-year-old ancient western red cedars. There were only four attendees on the walk that was given by a very interesting Naselle couple—Ann Musche and Alan Richards. They were very attuned to the different birds that we heard and saw and were also very good at identifying various plants. They presented us with such a detailed summary of everything we (or they) heard and saw on our two-hour walk, that we had to conclude we must have been on a different walk than the one they were on!

Another highlight of FinnFest was the various musical performances. *The Helsinki Poliisi Kuoro* (which happened to include one of my first cousins) was very good. This choir had sung in Vancouver and around the Seattle area before coming to FinnFest. We were fortunate to have purchased one of their CDs before they sold out. They were to perform one more concert in San Francisco before heading home. We also enjoyed the *Saalem Choir of Helsinki* and their excellent pianist. Other exceptional musical groups were *Ampron Prunni*, the *West Coast Korsu Kuoro*, *Sillanpääs*, and the *Naselle Marimba Band*—lots of very good music and dancing. The downside was because of the great musical talent and entertainment and the many relatives to visit, we did not have much of a chance to attend the various lectures. However, we did get to sit in on several interesting presentations about the area's canning and lumbering industries. We were also fortunate to be able to see the play, *Our Only May Amelia*, based on the book by Jennifer Holm, as well as to attend Jarkko Yly-Annala's Kantele Mass in Astoria's Peace Lutheran Church Sunday morning before leaving the area.

We did notice several Finnish newspaper people at FinnFest, so we are expecting to see several writeups and pictures in their upcoming editions.

A New Year Begins at Suomi-koulu (Finnish School)

Suomi-koulu starts its fourth year on September 16. This year we will start with a game day in the gymnasium at Christ Church Lutheran. Old and new *Suomi-koulu* students are welcome. You can pre-register your child or children by email to risto.ann@usfamily.net or register in person on the 16th.

New this year at *Suomi-koulu* is our *Kirjasto Kahvila* (Library Cafe). All are welcome to come on *Suomi-koulu* Saturdays for a cup of coffee and some conversation. In addition, for a nominal fee, you can check out books from the *Suomi-koulu* library.

Also, we are adding a class for parents and grandparents on *Raising Bilingual Children*. All are welcome to attend this discussion group from 11:00 to noon on *Suomi-koulu* Saturdays, starting September 30. Discussions will be held in English.

Go to minnesotafinnish.org and click on The Finnish School of Minnesota for our fall calendar and more information about *Suomi-koulu*.

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 _____
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Email _____

Alvar Aalto Vase Featured in *Star-Tribune*



Alvar Aalto's famous vase design was featured in the April 27 *Star Tribune* Taste section with a small article by Lee Svitak Dean and various pictures of Aalto's famous vase shape used in a vase, of course, a birch serving tray, a wooden pot guard, and an ice cube tray.

Lee wrote, "Seventy years ago, Finnish architect and furniture designer Alvar Aalto anonymously entered a competition to design a vase for the 1936 Paris World's Fair. Sketched with crayon on cardboard and scratch paper, the design became one of the most famous pieces of glass in history. The free-flowing shape now is used for more than vases, from trays and bowls to lamp fixtures and cookie cutters. Most of its design renditions are made by the Finnish glass company *Iittala*, but others have created variations suited to the kitchen. Today there are trays and trivets made of birch to stainless steel bowls, silicone ice cube trays and a wooden pot guard with the same design. And to think, all this is based on a crayon drawing."

You can purchase Alvar Aalto items from Finnstyle at 115 Washington Ave. N. or online at www.finnstyle.com. You can also purchase items or learn more about the designer at www.aalto.com.

Beginner Finnish Class

A beginner Finnish class will start the middle of September at the Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church. It will be held on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday evenings. For more information call Floyd Niskanen at 763-540-0121.

Vanskä Renews Contract

Osmo Vänskä will be leaving his post as chief conductor of Finland's Lahti Symphony at the end of the 2007-2008 season, concluding a two decade tenure. He will, however, continue as conductor laureate of the Lahti Symphony, an ensemble he has led to international prominence through tours and awards. Having completed his third season as the director of the Minnesota Orchestra, Vänskä recently extended his contract through 2011.

Annual Salolampi Scholarship Phonathon

PLEASE ACCEPT A CALL! The Annual Salolampi Scholarship Phonathon will be held October 30, November 1, and 2. (No calls will be made on Halloween.) Board members and friends of Salolampi will be making hundreds of calls nationwide again this year for the scholarship program. **YOUR SUPPORT IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER.**

This Phonathon is the major annual appeal by the Salolampi Foundation 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 needs to increase. Every villager receives scholarship assistance to reduce the real cost of attendance. The Board's goal is to eventually fill all the Finnish summer sessions with villagers.

A postcard will be mailed prior to October 30 to remind donors that they can expect a Phonathon call on October 30, November 1, or 2. Please note that if you will not be available on one of these evenings, or if you did not receive a call during the Phonathon after receiving a card, please do not hesitate to send a donation directly to the Salolampi Foundation, PO Box 14480, Minneapolis MN 55414-0480.

Should it happen that you did not receive a postcard prior to the Phonathon, the reason is that only 1,500 calls are selected to be handled during the three evenings of the Phonathon. Do not hesitate to send a donation directly to the Foundation.

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 Linda Davis at 763-420-3237 or email ldavismn@hotmail.com, or Evelyn Eskeli at 612-359-0805 or eeskeli@usfamily.net if you can help. Calls may also be made from home sites.

Support Finnish American youth by helping the Salolampi Foundation raise the necessary scholarship funds! Salolampi Finnish Language Village is a wonderful place!

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

Twenty-five Most Important Finnish-American Treasures

By K. Marianne Wargelin

(Not necessarily in order of importance.)

1. Immigration History Research Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota: site of the world's largest Finnish American archive collection.

2. Honka Farmstead–Arnheim, Michigan: site of pristine early 20th C. Finnish American farm and log construction.

3. Embarrass, Minnesota farm region: site of pristine example of early 20th C. Finnish American farming community and log constructed buildings.

4. Cokato, Minnesota: 1864 origin site of the 19th C. mass immigration of Finns to America.

5. Calumet, Michigan: Finns' first urban center in the USA; also site of the 1913 Copper Country Strike, the strike that brought Finnish American workers to the forefront of American labor organizing in the early 20th C.

6. Finlandia University, (Suomi College) Hancock, Michigan: founded in 1896, Finnish America's only institute of higher education.

7. Salolampi Language Village, Bemidji, Minnesota: late 20th C. Finnish American community project to create a national center that teaches the Finnish language and culture to American children.

8. Sitka, Alaska: site of the mid-19th C. Finnish settlement in the Russian Colonial Period. Finnish carpenters and a Finnish governor-general brought a Finnish presence to the site, now recognized by the National Park Service.

9. New Sweden, Delaware: Swedish Colony, which included Finnish settlers, originating in 1638 during the American Colonial Period Monument installed and dedicated in 1938 to the Finnish settlers in Delaware. Design by Finnish sculptor, Väinö Aaltonen.

10. Camp Luther, Conneaut, Ohio: pristine example of Finnish American summer camp tradition. Summer camps for young and old existed throughout Finnish American regions across the country.

11. Kerhotalo, Lake Worth, Florida: pristine example of the Finnish American hall tradition that was re-visioned in the Finntown that grew up in the 1950's in Florida.

12. Astoria, Oregon and Naselle, Washington: one of the earliest urban/farming parallel communities. Beginning as a fishing site in the early 1870's, this community became the largest Finnish American community west of the Mississippi.

13. Duluth, Minnesota: site of the Finns' second urban center in the USA. National 20th C. center of Finnish American cultural and political activities.

14. Gateway Arch, St. Louis, Missouri: prime example of the influential work of Eero Saarinen, internationally renowned architect and designer and son of Eliel Saarinen.

15. Christ Church, Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minnesota: prime example of the influential work of Eliel Saarinen, internationally renowned architect and designer.

16. Finnish Brotherhood Hall, Berkeley, California: early 20th C. Finn Hall in urban setting. Building is still owned and used by the local Finnish American community.

17. Imatra Hall, Brooklyn, New York: early 20th C. Finn Hall in America's largest city; half recently sold but still being used as a hall. albeit by another ethnic group.

18. St. Henry's Church, Nisula, Michigan: prime example of Finnish American country church clap-board church style.

19. Bethany Lutheran Church, Ashtabula, Ohio: Finnish American church modeled after the Post WWII Finnish church design prototype, designed and build by Finnish Americans.

20. Saima Hall and Saima Park, Fitchburg, Massachusetts: Finnish American workers' club and center of Finnish American Social Democracy in New England.

21. Covington, Michigan: Finnish Lutheran Church interior designed by Chicago Art Institute professor, Elmer Forsberg, a Finnish American artist who, together with his students, built a "Finnish Jugend" style interior.

22. The Iron Range communities of Minnesota: an industrial/urban region settlement which exemplifies the cultural life Finnis developed throughout the United States.

23. Cranbrook Institute, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan: an art center that brought the Saarinen family and friends to America to teach the Finnish design aesthetic.

24. Finnish Immigration books by Solomon Imonen (written between 1919 and 1935).

25. Bibliography of Finnish Americana: a book written by John I. Kolehmainen in 1945.



Pieniä Paloja

- A **Swedish Language Village**, Sjölundén, is being built north of the Salolampi Finnish Language Village. A small facility suited to 45-50 people is planned at a cost of \$2.75 million. The Swedish and Finnish Villages can be used in conjunction with each other or separately, depending on needs. Concordia Language Villages has approved a **new weaving studio** to be used in cooperation with Salolampi into which the present looms can be moved. The Berglund Family Foundation (Weaver's Guild) has donated \$150,000 for this weaving studio.

- Finns took almost all of the medals in the **7th annual mobile phone throwing world championships** held in Savonlinna, Finland, and the world record will stay in Finnish hands. The men's traditional event was won by Lasse Etelätalo with a throw of 89 meters. In the women's traditional competition Eija Laakso not only secured victory but also set a new Finnish and world record mark of 50.83 meters. The most international category was the freestyle team competition, where the throwing technique was perhaps less important than originality, style, aesthetics, and convincing the panel of judges. Victory here went to Team Sweden. 70 people from Finland, Sweden, Russia, Holland, Belgium, and Canada competed.

- Finnish professors are working on a **vaccine against type 1 diabetes**. The vaccine is being developed by Vactech, a company set up by two Finnish medical professors, Heikki Hyöty of the University of Tampere, and Mikael Knip of the University of Helsinki. The two established the company five years ago after their research revealed to them a possible cause of type 1, or juvenile onset diabetes. Finnish researchers have placed a high priority on the matter, because the disease is spreading quickly in Finland. Juvenile onset diabetes is five times more prevalent in Finland now than it was 50 years ago, with about 600 children under the age of 15 falling ill with the disease each year. However, it will be years before a possible vaccine is ready.

Calendar, cont.

Sept. 17, Sun. Salolampi Board Meeting at the Salolampi Finnish Language Village, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for all members of the Salolampi Foundation board. For more information on the foundation, see www.salolampi.org.

Sept. 20, Wed. Newsletter articles due to Tiina Watts. See page 2 for contact information. Pictures go directly to Beth Jarvis. Send a couple of vacation pictures from Finland to her! You might find one on the front cover of the FACA Uutiset!

Sept. 21–Oct. 7 Open House for Finland's first temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The temple is located near Helsinki in the town of Espoo. For pictures and more details, see www.ldschurchtemples.com/cgi-bin/pages.cgi?helsinki&announced.

Sept. 23, Sat. Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota Monthly meeting with the topic of Family Reunions from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 5768 Olson Memorial Hwy in Golden Valley. Email ds1940@aol.com for more information or see www.minnesotafinnish.org.

Sept. 28–Oct. 1 8th annual Nordic Roots Festival at the Cedar Cultural Center, 416 Cedar Avenue S; Minneapolis, featuring Finnish artists : Maria Kalaniemi trio and solo (www.mariakalaniemi.com), *Loituma* (<http://timo.maanite.fi/>), Gjallarhorn (www.gjallarhorn.com) and Timo Alakotila (www.mariakalaniemi.com). Festival passes (entry to all shows) are \$119, individual tickets are also available. For more information see www.thecedar.org.

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. (See p. 5)

Dec. 9, Sat. FACA's Annual *Pikkujoulu* party. More details in future newsletters.



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

Sept. 8, Fri. Café Accordion Orchestra, with special guests Stephanie Curtis (MPR's "Movie Maven"), Connie Evingson, Finnish American folk singer Diane Jarvi, and Charmin Michelle, will be performing at 8:00 p.m. at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul. Minnesota Public Radio is sponsoring this event, which will include the Café Accordion Orchestra performing music from their Cinema CD, plus film clips, and a dance appearance by Ralph Tuttila. Tickets: \$20-\$29. For information call 651-290-1221 or go to <http://fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org/events/>

Sept. 9–15 Finnish Fall Adult Week at Salolampi Finnish Language Village near Bemidji, Minnesota, run by Concordia Language Villages. The cost is \$455 (\$355 for commuters). Finnish language and life surround you as you learn Finnish, enjoy cultural presentations, hear and sing Finnish music, enjoy wonderful Finnish food, and learn crafts, games and dances of Finland. Try the sauna and a dip in Turtle River Lake if you wish. For information see www.salolampi.org or call 800-450-2214.

Sept. 14–16 The Minnesota Orchestra's "Welcome Home" Party (from their European Tour) and Concert at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. Osmo Vänskä conducts Sibelius' Violin Concerto, with Viktoria Mullova on violin, as well as songs by Martineau and Beethoven. Thursday's concert is at 11:00 a.m. and Friday's and Saturday's at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are from \$20 to \$82. See www.minnesotaorchestra.org or call 612-371-5656 for tickets.

Sept. 15–17 Fall Work Weekend at Salolampi Finnish Language Village. Free room and board provided for those who come and help clean, paint, and spruce up the village. Men, women, and children are welcome. Call Milo Laitinen to volunteer at 218-584-4266 or email him at laitinen@wcta.net.

Sept. 15, Fri. FACA Monthly Program at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. Jukka Kukkonen will be speaking on bilingualism. (See p. 1)

More calendar on p. 7