

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2009

Travels in Alaska 2009

Our September program features highlights of the FinnFest USA 2009 Cruise, presented by FACA members who were there. Gil Kinnunen has gathered a group of hardy travelers to bring the cruise to us. Experience the scenic, historic, enlightening FinnFest USA 2009 cruise through photos, stories, and recollections of FACA members who made the journey. Travel from **Seattle** to **Glacier Bay** to **Juneau** to **Sitka** to **Ketchikan** to **Victoria, British Columbia**, and back to **Seattle**.

On May 17, Holland America's *Westerdam* left Seattle for a one-week cruise through Alaska's Inside Passage. Among the 1,750 passengers aboard were 640 wearing FinnFest USA 2009 name badges. Nearly 80 were from Minnesota, and several were FACA members. The first-ever FinnFest USA cruise marked the 200th anniversary of Finland's establishment as a Grand Duchy of the Russian Empire.

Review highlights of the festival program—stimulating seminars and panels, engaging coffee conversations, mouth-watering cooking demonstrations, Finnish films, gala ceremonies and performances, Finnish sing-alongs around the piano, and lively music and dancing.

Discover the breathtaking marine wilderness of Glacier Bay National Park, with its tidewater glaciers, snow-capped mountain ranges, ocean coastlines, deep fjords, and freshwater rivers and lakes.

In Juneau, learn about Finnish-Alaskans through the eyes of local residents, including Representative Beth Kerttula, Minority Leader for the Alaska State House of Representatives.

In Sitka, capital of the Finnish-Russian 19th-century colony, visit the Lutheran Church for a look at the history of the congregation's Finnish origins, including a fashion show and a cemetery tour.

In Ketchikan, tour Saxman Native Village and learn about the indigenous Tlingit population and Finns in Alaska and watch master totem carvers and their apprentices at work.

In each of these cities, experience some of the exciting side trips that FACA members took, including a dogsled adventure on the Mendenhall Glacier.

In Victoria, British Columbia, see the magnificent Butchart Gardens, fifty acres of floral finery.

In Seattle, view the city from atop the Space Needle and enjoy the color of Pike Place Market.

SEPTEMBER FACA PROGRAM

**FinnFest USA 2009:
Travels in Alaska
Friday, September 18
7:30 p.m.
International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**
*If you need transportation, call
Marianne Wargelin
at 612-374-2718*

Naturalist John Muir made his first journey to Alaska in 1879, following a route similar to ours. He recorded his observations of the Inside Passage in the opening chapters of his book, *Travels in Alaska*. His words describe our experience 130 years later:

"Day after day in the fine weather we enjoyed, we seemed to float in true fairyland, each succeeding view seeming more and more beautiful, the one we chanced to have before us the most surprisingly beautiful of all." John Muir, *Travels in Alaska* (1879)

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President's Message

By *Kaarina Kotkavuori*



I am glad that fall is here, so we can begin our time together once again. I hope you all had a pleasant summer. I did. It began with the Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* festival. Yes, indeed, I had a great time. One of highlights of the festival was attending a coffee house concert with the Finnish rock band, Keho Boys Band. Joining them was a Russian woman, Olga Shishinka, who played a large *kantele*, called a *gusli*. I have never seen fingers that could fly across the wires that fast. Each note was perfect.

I took a trip to Lake Worth, Florida, to celebrate my father's birthday. While there, a friend at the Finnish Rest Home taught me how to knit a sock. I have now mastered the knitted sock heel (definitely a summer highlight).

Just recently, I witnessed my first *pesäpallo* game with friends from the *Suomi-koulu*. It was great to watch a real game. I also enjoyed a Saana Ensemble performance and a Finn Hall Band dance.

We have quite a few events coming up this fall that we all can enjoy. The Finnish Film series will continue on every third Sunday of the month at Christ Church Lutheran. The cost for the season (September through May) is \$25.00. Later this month, the Finn Hall Band is celebrating their second CD release at a dance, and Christ Church Lutheran is celebrating receiving National Historic status of their Saarinen designed building.

Looking ahead to November, a Nordic film festival will be held. A lot of planning has gone into this event. This is a first ever event in the Twin Cities, and I hope that it will be well attended.

I think I am the first president of FACA who has not been to *Salolampi*. I will be able to remedy this situation by going and helping with the fall cleanup weekend. Would anyone like to join me?

Plans are in motion for our *Pikkujoulu* celebration. The phrase "the more, the merrier" really is true. Please check your calendars, invite your friends, and plan to attend this beautiful and joyous event.

Next spring, we will be at the Festival of Nations. In addition to the café, we will be participating in the exhibit area again. Please let me know if you would like to be on the planning committee.

Most of all, I look forward to each of our monthly programs. Jeanne has interesting speakers planned, the coffee is always good, and the conversations are even better. Please come on the third Friday and share your time with us. Coffee will continue to be available at the beginning of the program. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Tervetuloa

Board Notes *By Stella Arola*



L-R Andreas Ostenso, Edith Boos, Jeanne Swope, Stella Arola, Jane Olson and Kaarina Kotkavuori

The board met at the home of Kaarina Kotkavuori on August 19th. Treasurer Andreas Ostenso gave his financial report and Secretary Stella Arola provided the minutes of the May 12th board meeting. Both were approved.

Edith Boos was welcomed to the board and various board positions were agreed upon.

President Kaarina Kotkavuori reviewed the events of last year, including *Pikkujoulu*, the Festival of Nations, and our participation in the Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* Festival in Moorhead and it was concluded that they had been very successful.

Vice President, Jeanne Swope, reported that the September FACA program will be a report on the FinnFest USA 2009 cruise this spring by Gil Kinnunen. She also reported that she has a number of programs planned for future months.

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
Urho Rahkola at (651) 429-3319

Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* Festival

By Kaarina Kotkavuori

I am very glad that Claudia Pratt extended an invitation to FACA to come help at the Scandinavian *Hjemkomst* Festival in the Fargo/Moorhead area in June. Claudia, Ellen Little and Ann Marie Johnson were very welcoming and helpful. The theme was "Finland Rocks," and the festival certainly did.

I thank Susan Makela, Mark Basiletti, Harvey and Stella Arolla, Edie Boos, Carole Backman, Evelyn Eskeli, Jane and Keith Olson, Ruth Erkkila, Pam and Urho Rahkola, Jeanne Swope, Jean Torgerson, and Junelle and Stuart Bernard for volunteering at the festival. We volunteered each day, and there was still plenty of time to enjoy the festival. Marlene and Ernie Banttari were there selling Ernie's handcrafted wood bowls. Bob Jones also sent along some of his bowls to sell. Darrel Nicholson and Sandi Sevre attended as well. Darrel presented a lecture on the Social Study of New York Mills 1933, which is based on a book he has published. Six members of the Finnish Genealogy Group assisted in the Genealogy Room.

Meeting for breakfast and dinner was enjoyable and made it easy to plan events in the evening. We also attended a reception for the Finnish community.

We operated the *Rokki* coffee café throughout the three-day festival. We served Finnish coffee, *pulla*, strawberry shortcake, and lemon iced sugar cookies.

In addition to the café, we were at tables with information about *Salolampi*, FinnGrandFest 2010, and FACA. Joan Selover, Stella Arolla, and Edie Boos had taken photos of things they own and made a wonderful poster of Finnish products. We also had a poster with photos of Finnish businesses, names of all the Twin Cities' Finnish groups, and CD covers from Twin Cities musicians.

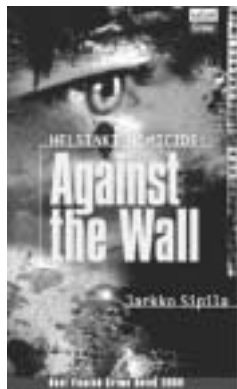
Finn Hall, Kisarit Folk Dance group, and Saana Ensemble added to the wonderful music. There were also entertainers from all the Nordic countries. One special group was the rock band, Keho Boys Band, from Finland.

Nordic countries offered tasty food. We had an opportunity to taste-test pickled herring. It was so good that we think it would be enjoyable to arrange a field trip in Minneapolis to the Olson Fish Company that makes the pickled herring.

It was wonderful to go and volunteer. The Finnish community and the organizing committee were very appreciative. I am looking forward to attending the festival again.

Jarkko Sipilä: *Against the Wall*

Jarkko Sipilä, noted Finnish detective novelist, was featured at a Finlandia Foundation sponsored special event on July 23 at the Swedish American Institute. Sipilä introduced the first of his detective novels to be published in English.



Sipilä is a Finnish journalist, reporting Finnish crime news for TV and the *Helsingin Sanomat*. His detective novel *Against the Wall* (*Seinä Vasten*), won the 2009 Finnish Crime Fiction of the Year Award. It has been excellently translated by Peter Ylitalo Leppa, and published here by Ice Cold Crime, a new publishing house founded by Jouko Sipilä, Jarkko's brother.

Marianne Wargelin opened the event, and Betsey Norgard, who organized the fine reception, introduced the speakers.

Jouko Sipilä discussed the publication of the book by Ice Cold Crime. Peter Leppa told about the linguistic and cross-cultural challenges of the translation project. Jarkko Sipilä talked about his writing history and methods, the Helsinki setting of the book, and crime in Finland. *Against the Wall* is his eleventh book in this series about the adventures of Helsinki Detective Lieutenant Takamäki's homicide team. The books are exciting, fast-paced, and feature a dry "police" humor.

The large audience had many questions, and were eager to have their books autographed. A reception followed.

Against the Wall is in stock (signed copies) at Once Upon a Crime, 604 W. 26th St., Minneapolis, (612) 870-3785, and online from Amazon.com. Or ask your favorite bookstore to order it!

Welcome New Members!

**Carole and Michael Krutsch,
Bloomington
Tervetuloa!**

ANNUAL SALOLAMPI SCHOLARSHIP PHONATHON

Please accept a call on October 27, 28 or 29

Salolampi Foundation Board members and friends of *Salolampi* will be making hundreds of calls nationwide again this year for the scholarship program. Your support this coming year in 2010 will be more critical than ever. Tuition costs at *Salolampi* will not increase for 2010, but we need to keep enrollment increasing. Enrollment in 2009 lagged just slightly, but still was better than expected in spite of the economic downturn.

Anyone who has been to *Salolampi* knows that it is a very beautiful place on a lake in the woods near Bemidji, Minnesota. Keeping the Finnish-American heritage alive for future generations is a truly worthwhile legacy.

This Phonathon is the major annual appeal by the *Salolampi* Foundation that provides approximately \$25,000 to help defray tuition costs and to make attendance at *Salolampi* more affordable to families. As the number of villagers increases, the number of dollars needs to increase. Currently, **every villager receives scholarship assistance** to reduce the real cost of attendance.

A postcard will be mailed before October 27 to remind donors to expect a Phonathon call on October 27, 28 or 29. If you will not be available **or** if you do not receive a call or postcard from the Phonathon, send your contribution directly to the *Salolampi* Foundation, P. O. Box 14480, Minneapolis MN 55414-0480. If you are a policyholder or investor with Thrivent Financial, you may request a match from Thrivent. You may donate on-line via our secure website www.salolampi.org and click on Phonathon Donation. (Thrivent matches cannot be accepted on-line).

Volunteers are needed to staff the 15 on-site phones at the Lutheran Community Foundation offices in the Thrivent Financial Building in downtown Minneapolis. Please call (612) 359-0805 or e-mail eeskeli@usfamily.net if you can help. A light supper will be provided.

Please help send a Finnish-American villager to Salolampi to experience and to learn more about their rich heritage.

Hear Saana Ensemble at the LEIF Festival

The 22nd annual Leiv Eriksson International Festival brings a Norwegian choir, Danish-American jazz singer, Viking music band, art, music, and worship to the Twin Cities from September 26-October 18.

The Finnish focus occurs on Sunday, October 18, when Pastor Mel Johnson will present the sermon and the Saana Ensemble will sing both during the service and at the coffee hour following.

The opening Sunday service, on September 27, includes presentation of the Nordic flags and scripture readings in the five Nordic languages, with a sermon in Norwegian with translation.

Some of the other events include:

- Sun., October 4—Concert by the **Stavern Male Choir** (Norway), 1:30 p.m., \$10.
- Tues., October 6— Storytelling and music from the Viking Age by **Krauka**, 11 a.m. lunch, noon program. \$5.
- Sun., October 11—Concert by tenor, pianist, and organist **Jim Reilly** and Icelandic pianist **Dr. Kristín Jónína Taylor**, 1:30 p.m., \$10.
- Tues., October 13—Music by **Mikhala Wolsgaard-Iversen**, Danish-American jazz singer. 11 a.m. lunch, noon program. \$5.
- Art exhibits, Nordic food treats, Danish movies, and more!

All events take place at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, 10th Ave. and Franklin Ave., Minneapolis. For the complete schedule of LEIF Festival events, go to <http://mindekirken.org/LEIF/LEIF.htm> or call (612) 874-0716.

“If you could see me now” Artist talk/exhibit

“If you could see me now”—Stories across borders by Minna Rainio and Mark Roberts. October 15, 7:00 p.m., Regis Center for Art, In Flux room, University of Minnesota West Bank Arts Quarter, 405 21st Avenue South, Minneapolis.

Rainio and Roberts combine media art, conceptual art, and documentary to produce large-scale, multiple-screen video installations that deal with social and political issues and their impact on people’s individual experiences and histories.

The installations were produced between 2004 and 2008 and have been shown widely throughout Europe. The first film, *Borderlands*, is a three-screen installation that uses fact, fiction, and fantasy to explore the Finnish-Russian border. The second, *Angles of Incidence*, explores the journey of three refugees and the spaces of power they pass through on their journey to a new country. The final work, *Eight Rooms*, is an eight-screen work that examines the international trafficking of women for prostitution.

Minna Rainio is a Finnish Government/Nancy and David Speer Foundation Visiting Associate Professor in Photography at the University of Minnesota. She is a Finnish photographer and media artist, and is currently also working on her PhD. **Mark Roberts** is an English visual artist and scriptwriter currently based in Minneapolis.

For details about time and place of this presentation, check the calendar at www.minnesotafinnish.org.

Save the Date: Dec. 12 - *Pikkujoulu*

The FACA board invites you to save Saturday, December 12th, 2009, for the annual *Pikkujoulu* celebration at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis. We will observe Finland’s “little Christmas” tradition with an elegant dinner by Soile Anderson and the beautiful music of Diane Jarvi. Further details will follow next month.

Get the FACA newsletter electronically!
The *Utiset* e-newsletter is fast, convenient, and costs FACA less to produce and distribute. E-mail Andreas Ostenso at tostenso@yahoo.com with questions.

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 _____

Celebration of New National Historic Landmark in Minnesota

Christ Church Lutheran is holding a public celebration to commemorate its designation by the U.S. Department of the Interior (January 16, 2009) as a National Historic Landmark. World-renowned architects Eliel and Eero Saarinen designed the church. The celebration will take place on Sunday, September 27, 2009.

Festivities that day will begin with a worship service at 9:30 a.m., followed by a luncheon. At 1:30 p.m., the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior will make a presentation of the National Historic Landmark award, followed by comments on the building's history and significance by Susan Saarinen, daughter of Eero Saarinen and granddaughter of Eliel; Thomas Fisher, Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Design; and others.

Since its construction in 1949, the sanctuary of Christ Church has been the focus of fascination by architects, photographers, students, and those seeking a place of worship and community, beauty and solace. Christ Church Lutheran is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and in 1977, the building received the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) 25-Year Award, crediting the influence of the building on church design in the second half of the 20th century. In the award, the AIA described the church as "a living symbol of architectural integrity... a building with great dramatic effect and architectural impact, and yet which retains a very human scale and possesses a feeling of serenity and repose."

When the congregation of Christ Church Lutheran sought to expand the sanctuary facility with an education wing, they looked to Eliel's famous son, Eero. Though Eero is known for his exuberantly futuristic buildings—such as the St. Louis Arch and Dulles Airport—the education wing is subdued, a subordinate, yet lovely and joyful homage to his father's masterpiece. It was completed in 1962 and houses a beautiful lounge, spacious education rooms, a sky-lit atrium, and a gymnasium with a theater stage. The joined pair of buildings stands today as a rare example of the father's and son's individual works combined.

National Historic Landmarks are buildings, sites,

districts, structures, and objects that have been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be nationally significant in American history and culture. Many of the most renowned historic properties in the nation are Landmarks. Mount Vernon, Pearl Harbor, the Apollo Mission Control Center, and the Martin Luther King Birthplace in Atlanta, Georgia, are Landmarks that illustrate important contributions to the nation's historical development.



Photo credit: Peter Sieger

All are invited to join in this historic celebration on September 27th, to see this place of architectural genius and quiet exhilaration, and to commemorate Christ Church Lutheran's designation as a National Historic Landmark.

Christ Church Lutheran and Saarinen Timeline:

1873: Eliel Saarinen born in Rantasalmi, Finland
1910: Eero Saarinen born in Kirkkonummi, Finland
1923: Saarinen family moves to the United States
1932: Eliel becomes president of Cranbrook Academy of Art
1936: Eero joins father's firm and Cranbrook faculty
1940: With Charles Eames, Eero wins two first prizes for furniture design, Museum of Modern Art
1949: Christ Church Lutheran is built
1950: Eliel dies in Bloomfield Hills, MI
1952: Eero is elected a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA)
1961: Eero dies in Ann Arbor, MI
1962: Christ Church Lutheran's Education wing is completed
1962: Eero posthumously awarded AIA's Gold Medal
1965: St Louis Gateway Arch completed
1977: Christ Church Lutheran receives AIA's 25-Year Award
2009: Christ Church Lutheran receives National Historic Landmark designation

Pieniä Paloja

- The black currants, red currants, and raspberries season has started in Southern Finland. The year's yields of these fruits are expected to be satisfactory. The berries have grown big, since the summer has been humid. The selection of Finnish-grown fresh vegetables also begins to be at its widest. Summer apples will be ready to be harvested in Southern Finland in a couple of weeks.
- The growth in tourism from abroad to Finland slowed down in 2008, while increasing somewhat from the year before. Most of the increase in Finland's inbound tourism continued to come from Russia and Britain.
- It seems one in eight Finnish pedestrians ignore the signs on light-operated crossings. In Helsinki, as many as 42% of pedestrians will cross the road even when no green light is showing.
- Stora Enso, the Finnish-Swedish pulp and paper manufacturer, has, over the last five years, invested in production abroad at roughly three times the amount put into Finnish plants. Finland still accounts for some 40% of the total production by Finnish forest industry companies, but the trend has manufacturing moving to Latin America and to China.
- Eighty five thousand fans packed into the Jätkäsaari concert site in Helsinki, drawing the largest single crowd on Madonna's current world tour.

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.

Finn Hall Band Dance and CD Release Party

A dance and CD release party will be held on Saturday, September 26 at the Eagles Hall from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. The hall is located at 2507 East 25th Street, Minneapolis. There is ample parking, and the hall is a smoke-free venue. The cost for this wonderful event is a free will donation. Free refreshments of coffee, *pulla* and *pirakkaa* will be offered; other refreshments will be available for purchase. Please contact Ralph Tuttila for more information at raulit@msn.com. Everyone is welcome to come and join in the celebration of their newest recording, *Tule Tanssimaan (Come Dance)*. Congratulations to the Finn Hall Band!



Vanska Opens Music in the Park Series

Celebrated conductor Osmo Vänskä will exchange his baton for a clarinet when he joins four key string players from the Minnesota Orchestra for the gala opening performance of Music in the Park Series 2009-2010 season. Program will feature Mozart's *Divertimento in F Major*, *Duo for Violin and Cello* by Kodaly, and the Midwest premiere of a work by Kalevi Aho, one of Finland's leading composers of today.

Featured musicians include: Osmo Vänskä, clarinet; Sarah Kwak & Vali Phillips, violins; Thomas Turner, viola; Anthony Ross, cello

October 11, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Hamline University, Sundin Hall, 1536 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul. Map: http://law.hamline.edu/files/Campus_Map.pdf.

TICKETS: Season tickets (six-concert subscription) \$100; Single tickets \$22. Order online at www.musicintheparkseries.org, call (651) 645-5699..



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 10 Saana Ensemble's concert at St. Paul's-on-the Hill Episcopal church, 1524 Summit Ave, 7:00 p.m. Saana Ensemble performs Finnish hymns and folk tunes. Free will offering, reception following concert.

Sept 18 FACA Program, 7:30 p.m. International Institute 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul.

Sept 20 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., Pelon Maantiede

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0188135/> Season tuition: \$25/\$15 for students. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, Minneapolis. More information: (651) 428-3155.

Sept 24 *Utiset* copy deadline. Copy: mary.belanger@dctc.edu

Sept 26 Finnish Genealogy Group meeting, 9:30 a.m. Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church, 11015 Old County Road 15, Plymouth. Topic: Show and Tell—members share summer research activities and other items of special interest. Information and directions: www.minnesotafinnish.org

Sept 28 Children of Bodom plays at Epic, 7:30 p.m., 110 North 5th Street, Minneapolis. www.epicmpls.com, www.cobhc.com

Sept 26–Oct 18 22nd Annual Leiv Eriksson International Festival (See page 5.)

Sept 27 Christ Church Lutheran National Historic Landmark celebration (See page 6.)

Oct 2–4 *Salolampi* Fall Work Weekend. Lodging, meals, entertainment and a hot sauna provided. Bring whatever skills you have. Please notify Marvin Nevala at (715) 268-7884 if you are interested in attending.

Oct 10 Cokato Finnish American Historical Society Fall Festival. 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Temperance Corner at corner of County Roads 3 and 100, Cokato, Mn. Information: www.cokato.mn.us/cmhs/fahs.html

Oct 15 Artist talk/exhibit, University of Minnesota "If you could see me now" (See page 5.)

Oct 18 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Saippuaprinssi*. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saippuaprinssi>. Season tuition: \$25/\$15 for students. Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. South, Minneapolis. More information: (651) 428-3155.

Oct. 27-29 *Salolampi* Scholarship Phonathon in Minneapolis. (See pg. 4.)

Dec 12 *Pikkujoulu* celebration, Christ Church Lutheran.