



Utiset

NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2010

The New Lives of Finnish Folk Wind Instruments

Erkki Huovinen

In archaic times in rural Finland, cowherders used wind instruments in their daily work. The instruments that Finns enjoyed in those days have passed almost into oblivion. At our September program, Erkki Huovinen will talk about current efforts to resurrect some of these folk wind instruments, develop them into playable instruments, and find new uses for them. Fans of Finnish traditional music or folk music in general will be interested in his videos, music examples, and interviews with Finnish folk musicians and instrument builders.



Erkki Huovinen is a visiting associate professor in the School of Music at the University of Minnesota. He holds Ph.D. and Master's degree in musicology, as well as a Master's degree in philosophy from the University of Turku. For the last decade, he has held professor posts at the University of Turku and at the Åbo Akademi University, the Swedish-language university of Finland. His research has spanned the philosophy of music, ancient Greek music theory, the methodology of music analysis, as well as musical improvisation. Among many other projects, he is doing research on the recent rebirth of archaic Finnish aerophones. His current artistic endeavors include *Kiiski/Huovinen Blow*, a project that combines several art forms in producing improvised video art.

SEPTEMBER FACA PROGRAM

**Finnish Folk Instruments
Friday, September 17**

7:30 p.m.

**International Institute
1694 Como Ave., St. Paul**

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

The Huovinen family lives in the city of Kaarina, a suburb of Turku in southwestern Finland, where their house is about ten minutes from the center of Turku and the two universities (*Turun Yliopisto* and *Åbo Akademi*). His wife Annina is an art teacher and a graphic designer, but since she does not have a U.S. work permit, she has been pursuing her interest in working with horses and learning about horsemanship practices in the U.S. The Huovinen children attend a Minneapolis public school and are learning English at an amazing pace. They particularly enjoy trombone, recorder, and performing in a circus (Hertta), and bassoon and soccer (Felix).

FACA 2010-2011 Board of Directors

President:

Kara Middleton
(952) 237-5857
km7916@yahoo.com

Vice President/Program Chair:

Ray Piirainen
(612) 672-6963
piirainen@comcast.net

Secretary:

Jeanne Swope
(612) 827-6773
swope002@umn.edu

Treasurer/Publicity:

Edith Boos
eb.boos@usewireless.com

Hospitality/Special Activities:

Jane Olson
(651) 436-2724
jane52357@yahoo.com

Member-at Large

Glen Bay

FACA Newsletter Committee

Editor:

Mary Belanger
(218) 839-1566
facaeditor@gmail.com

Graphic Design:

Beth Jarvis
(763) 536-9561
bethjarvi@gmail.com

Contributing Writers:

Kara Middleton, Jeanne Swope, Joan Dwyer, Gil Kinnunen, Erin Belanger

Membership/Mailing:

Urho and Pam Rahkola
rahkola.urho@comcast.net
(651) 429-3319

President's Message

By Kara Middleton

After a summer that seemed far too short, our new FACA Board for the 2010-2011 year convened at my home earlier this month. As I mentioned during the May program this past spring, we will miss Kaarina Kotkavuori, Andreas Ostenso and Stella Arolla at our monthly board meetings. I have appreciated their skills, humor and extensive FACA knowledge. But I am also excited about our new board. For the coming year, Jeanne Swope will serve as secretary, Edie Boos as treasurer, Jane Olson will handle hospitality, and I will serve as president. And, thanks to the assistance of Dan Salin and Urho Rahkola this past spring, we have acquired two new board members: Ray Piirainen will function as vice president in charge of programming, and Glen Bay will serve as member-at-large. Please welcome Ray and Glen at the September program if you have not already done so. We are glad to have them!



There were many fine events celebrating Finnish culture in the Twin Cities during the summer. The Finnish architectural exhibit, *My Paradise*, opened at the American Swedish Institute. This exhibit continues there through October 10th and I recommend that you see it if you haven't already.

One of the summer's events that I really enjoyed was hearing novelist Jarkko Sipilä in early August at the recently relocated and expanded FinnStyle store. Jarkko, a crime reporter for a Helsinki TV station, spoke with an entertaining frankness about the nature and extent of crime in Helsinki. At one point he offered the following traveler's tip: "If you want to get beaten up in Helsinki," he said, "your best bet is to go to the hot dog stand near the train station at around 2:00 a.m., and cut in line." This was certainly alarming enough to convince me. The next time I am making a late-night hot dog run in Helsinki, I am definitely going to the end of the line and waiting my turn! Jarkko stayed around to autograph copies of his two novels that have been translated into English to date, which are, *Against the Wall*, and most recently, *Vengeance*. It was a very enjoyable evening. And, the FinnStyle store is a great place to shop. They have a beautiful collection of *Toikka* birds, as well as *Marimekko* fabric, glassware, dishes, and other fine imported items.

Please check the calendar section of this issue for many great events taking place this fall. Coming up soon is the Nordic Nights dinner and dance taking place at the American Swedish Institute on September 16th. They will be serving a traditional Finnish dinner, after which the Finn Hall band will be providing music for listening and dancing. It sounds like a lovely evening!

I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our program on the 17th. I believe Erkki Huovinen's presentation will be very informative. Please join us. *Tervetuloa!*

August Board Notes

By *Jeanne Swope*

The FACA Board of Directors met at the home of Kara Middleton on August 4. This was a joint meeting of the previous and current (new) board. Kaarina Kotkavuori, outgoing president, and Glen Bay, new board member, were unable to attend.

We reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes by Stella Arola, outgoing secretary, and the treasurer's report from Andreas Ostenso, outgoing treasurer. We reviewed needs for the September newsletter, and discussed preliminary plans for *pikkujoulu* and the year's meeting programs.

Board positions for the coming year were set. Officers will be:

Kara Middleton, President

Raymond Piirainen, Vice President and Program Chair

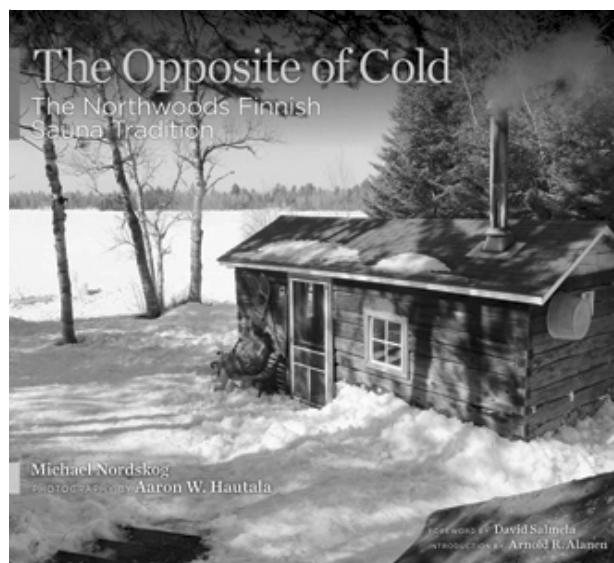
Edith Boos, Treasurer

Jane Olson, Hospitality

Jeanne Swope, Secretary

Glen Bay, Member-at-Large

Our next meeting will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 14, at the home of Jeanne Swope.



The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition

By *Heather Skinner*

This October the University of Minnesota Press is publishing a book called *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition* by Michael Nordskog and with photography by Aaron Hautala.

We have a two promotional events for this book that we hope you will attend. The first is in late September and the second in mid-October). Those events are:

Reception and Slide Show Presentation: Michael Nordskog and Aaron Hautala, author and photographer of *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition*

Thursday, September 30

Reception: 6:00–7:00 p.m.

Talk and Slide Show Presentation: 7:00 p.m.

American Swedish Institute

2600 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407

(612) 871-4907

Talk, Slide Show Presentation, and Book Signing: Michael Nordskog and Aaron Hautala, author and photographer of *The Opposite of Cold: The Northwoods Finnish Sauna Tradition*

Thursday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.

Clyde Iron Works

2920 West Michigan Street, Duluth, MN 55806

You can find out more on our website: http://www.upress.umn.edu/Books/N/nordskog_opposite.html

Welcome New Member!

Kathryn Hill of Park Rapids

Tervetuloa!

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

Nordic Nights: Finnish Supper Club at the American Swedish Institute

All are welcome to the American Swedish Institute's first "Nordic Nights" event of the season, on Thursday, Sept. 16. Social hour begins at 5:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. Finn Hall will provide the music. Finn Hall is a group dedicated to preserving the feel and sound of historic Finnish-American dance halls of the last century with the use of accordion, mandolin, violin, bass and nyckelharpa. They recently performed at ASI during Midsommar Eve Music on June 18.

To begin the evening, join us in the Grand Hall of the Turnblad mansion for social hour. You will have time to tour the current exhibit and browse the museum shop from 5:00–6:00 p.m. The evening's meal, served at 6:30 p.m., will begin with a mixed salads and breads, followed by *Karjalan paisti*, a Finnish meat stew with beef, pork and lamb, flavored with allspice and cloves served with boiled potatoes and glazed carrots. Dessert will be vanilla ice cream topped with cloud-berry jam. Finn Hall will entertain following the meal.

The cost for this evening of dinner and entertainment is \$21 per person. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, Sept. 14 by calling (612) 871-4907. The American Swedish Institute is located at 2600 Park Avenue in Minneapolis. More information can be found at www.americanswedishinst.org

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 _____

Nordic Nights: Membership Dinner Swedish Supper Club for Members and Friends

Come celebrate the fall with jazz at Nordic Nights, Thursday, October 21! We encourage those who have previously come to bring friends, and those who have not attended before to join us. It is truly a fun, relaxed, and exciting evening!



The evening will start off with a social hour from 5:00–6:00 p.m. During this time, attendees may view the mansion as well as visit the museum shop. There will also be a cash bar. The evening's meal will begin shortly after 6:00 p.m. with a mixed salad and breads. The main course will be apricot-stuffed pork loin served with a cream sauce, boiled potatoes and warm vegetables. For dessert, enjoy apple and almond cake with vanilla ice cream.

After dinner, the Travis Anderson Trio will perform. Anderson, a jazz pianist, plays regularly at the Dakota Jazz Club in downtown Minneapolis. He was classically trained and starting playing at the age of five. He taught himself to play jazz by listening to jazz legends such as Art Tatum and Oscar Peterson. Anderson holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in animation from the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and also works as a freelance photographer.

The cost of the membership dinner is \$21 per person. Reservations must be made by Tuesday, October 19 by calling (612) 871-4907.

FACA's Facebook Page

FACA has a Facebook group page. You may post any Finnish-related activity here. It's at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=116365755059161> or search for Finn FACA.

Catch the Finnish Wave

It's not too early to plan as, for the first time ever, FinnFest USA will be held in San Diego, California.

What is FinnFest USA? It is an annual meeting of people involved in the Finnish-American world as immigrants, family members, relatives, friends, business executives, employees, government officials, students, researchers, scientists, journalists, artists — or just of pure interest. Also, the local citizens are welcome to share the unique FinnFest USA feeling.

What's new in FinnFest 2011? The mayor of the city of San Diego has signed a proclamation to declare August 2011 to be the **Month of Finland in San Diego**. San Diego will celebrate throughout the month, with official FinnFest USA 2011 events being held August 10-14. The Government of Finland is participating in program planning. The official website: <https://www.finnfest2011.com>.

Why San Diego? San Diego is the 8th largest city in the USA with its 1.3 million inhabitants. Read more about San Diego for visitors at San Diego Convention and Visitor Bureau <http://www.sandiego.org/nav/Visitors>

Finnish Culture Through Movies

The Finnish Culture Through Movies study group is an offering of the Finnish Language School of Minnesota. The group gets together once a month, from September to May, to watch a Finnish movie (with English subtitles) and have a conversation about it afterwards. The group meets at *Suomi-koulu* located at the Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave South, in Minneapolis. Season tuition is \$25 for adults and \$15 for students. A listing of movies can be found in the calendar section of this newsletter. For more information: (651) 428-3155.



Work Weekends at *Salolampi*

“Beds, hot showers, the sauna, food, fresh air, camaraderie, and work will be at *Salolampi* in plentiful supply.”

-Mike Anuta

Work weekends (*talkoot*) at *Salolampi* started in 1993 with volunteers joining together to assemble three log cabins from Finland. These weekends, one in the fall and one in the spring, have continued ever since to help maintain the village. Anyone is free to attend work weekends and bring whatever skills they have with them whether it be painting, chopping wood, cleaning or organizing. Please consider coming no matter how much you feel you can contribute. Everyone is welcome even if it is your first time at *Salolampi* or you can only stay for part of the weekend. Lodging, meals, entertainment and a hot sauna provided. Please bring your own sleeping bags, pillows, and towels. The Fall Work Weekend will be October 8 –10.

Please notify *Salolampi* Foundation by e-mail if you are interested in attending or would like additional information. www.salolampi.org

Fall's *Salolampi* Adult Week

By Tiina Watts

Fall's *Salolampi* Adult Week is, September 11-17. Attendance has been a little lower than usual at the past couple of Adult Weeks so spread the word to all of our Finnish and Finnish-loving friends about this wonderful jewel we have here in northern Minnesota. The food is amazing, the surroundings beautiful, and the people who attend are the best! Every day attendees enjoy 3 1/2 hours of language classes, 1 or 2 Finnish cultural presentations, Finnish movies, Finnish crafts, sports and music, and much more.

My sisters and I have a little musical group which has performed at two FinnFests and we will be doing some performing throughout the week, as well as running various activities, and I will be teaching one of the levels of the Finnish language, as usual. My mother, who is from Finland, will also be doing a presentation on translating Finnish poetry. It should be a fun week.

For more information or to register, go to www.salolampi.org.

Kiitos!

Remembering Finn Grand Fest 2010

Photos and Articles By Urho Rahkola

My wife, Pam, my sister Eira, and I began our trip to the Sault Ste. Marie Finn Grand Fest early Thursday morning, July 29. We arrived at 6:00 p.m. after about a 30 minute wait on the bridge waiting to pass through customs. After checking into our motel and having a bite to eat, we made it to the evening dance at the Essar Center Hockey Arena. Pelimannit, from Toronto, and Finn Hall with Oren Tikkanen were performing that evening.

On Friday morning we split up and went to a few different lectures at the Delta Hotel. Some of what we caught included: Dr. Mika Roinila–Finnish Fisherman on the Great Lakes, Arnold Alanen–From Finland to North America: Buildings, Landscapes, and Cultural Change, Bill Lageroos–Has ‘Being Finnish’ Helped Make me Human? Pasi Sahlberg – What is the Finnish Education Miracle, Vesa Oja - Finnish–Photographs of Finns in North America, Eric Tamm–Mannerheim’s Asia Journey (retracing the route of Mannerheim to China) and Päivi King–Sibelius. We also managed to catch a few musical performances during the day. In the evening we had tickets for the film *Sisu* about Tom Sukanen who had built a ship in the middle of the Canadian prairie. We also caught a bit of the Rajaton concert.

On Saturday morning, we headed to the waterfront to walk through the outdoor Farmer’s Market. We cheered on the familiar faces that took part in the 5K Walk/Run. FACA participants included Dawn and Gil Kinnunen, Richard Harju, and Carole Backman. Later we attended the play *American Dream* put on by the Toronto theater group, followed by a nice meal at the Scandia Cafe while being entertained by an accordion player. We also checked out the *tori* vendors and visited the Arts and Crafts show. Since we did not have tickets for the Gala dinner, we took that time to walk and sightsee around an island in the St. Mary’s River. That night we attended a dance at the Essar Center—this time featuring the Black Tie Dance Band from Sudbury.

Sunday morning we went to the Finnish and English church service. In addition to a few choirs, the East Helsinki Institute Wind Band also played during the service. After one last quick stop in the *tori*, we headed out of Canada. We had a 45 minute wait in the

customs line, and then took only a few short stops along the route. We had quite a lightning show over Duluth, before reaching Esko just before midnight. All in all we had a very enjoyable trip to the Finn Grand Fest and look forward to attending another.



Upper Michigan’s Conga Se Menne gets their reggae on at Finn Grand Fest in Sault Ste. Marie.



Eira and Pam at the 5k Walk/Run “Finnish” line.



Pieniä Paloja

- The impact of the recession on tourism in Finland is manifested in the number of overnight stays by travellers, which fell by four per cent in June 2010 compared with a year ago. The largest group of foreigners to visit Finland in June were the Germans, with more than 65,000 overnight stays.
- In addition to smoke, the Russian forest fires have also brought rare flying visitors, locusts, to Finland. The species usually lives in the southern and central parts of European Russia. Thousands of locusts may have arrived, but no outbreak of a plague (of locusts) is expected to occur.
- The permanent population on Finnish islands is gradually declining, while the number of part-time residents has climbed.
- A fresh study reveals excessive haste nudges people into early retirement. In the working life of the Finns, one sentiment seems to be shared by everybody: the sense of haste. The most hectic are the health care and social work fields, in which around 60 per cent of the workers say they have overstrained themselves because of the rush. These fields also have the most problems with finding workers for the open vacancies.
- According to Finland's leading coffee company, Gustav Paulig Ltd., the market price of raw coffee has risen sharply and is now at a 12-year high. The news is cause for dismay among Finns, as statistics show Finns consume the equivalent of 12 kg of coffee, the highest per capita consumption of the beverage on the planet. The next country, Norway, did not quite reach 10 kg.
- Makers of Finnish sauna documentary are now promoting their film in the US. In *Steam of Life*, Finnish men sit in the sauna and talk about their lives—their hopes, dreams, and disappointments. So far, *Steam of Life* has been sold to six countries. In Finland around 27,000 people have seen it. The Finnish filmmakers have set their sights on an Oscar nomination.
- Finland has roughly two million saunas, 180,000 lakes and nearly half a million summer cottages.
- The most popular car brands being sold in Finland these days are the Volkswagen Golf, Skoda Octavia, Toyota Avensis, Nissan Qashqai, and Kia Ceed.
- Nearly 60 per cent of the Finns work even during their summer holiday.

Calendar-continued

Dec 11–12 *A Scandinavian Christmas with the Minnesota Orchestra* Join the Minnesota Orchestra for a very special Yuletide celebration: a winter bouquet of Scandinavia's most beautiful Christmas songs, plus lovely seasonal selections by Schubert, Sibelius, Humperdinck and Grieg. It may be cold outside, but inside—*God Jul!*—a warm welcome awaits. The wreaths will be hung and the hall will be aglow with the magic of Santa Lucia, complete with a candlelight procession ... a feast of sweet surprises. Nordic sweaters welcome! For more information: www.minnesotaorchestra.org/



Carole Backman and Richard Harju complete the 5k at Finn Grand Fest 2010. Photo Richard Harju

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 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

June 11–Oct 10 “My Paradise: Finnish and Finnish-American Summer Architecture” Exhibit featuring work by 20 renowned Finnish architects as well as native Minnesotan, David Salmela. American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis (612) 871-4907 Information: www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Events.html

September 13-15 “With a View of Water” Three-Day Curator’s Tour, Duluth and Bayfield. For more information: <http://www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Events.html>

September 16 Nordic Nights: Membership Dinner, Finnish Supper Club for members and friends, 5:00 p.m. social hour, 6:00 p.m. dinner. The cost of the membership dinner is \$21 per person. *Reservations must be made by Tuesday, September 14 by calling 612-871-4907* www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Events.html (See page 4.)

September 17 FACA Monthly Program. (See page 1.)

September 24 FACA *Utiset* copy deadline. Copy to Mary Belanger at facaeditor@gmail.com.

September 19 Finnish Culture Through Movies group,

6:00 p.m., *8 päivää ensi-iltaan* www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=822 (See page 5).

September 22 Betsey Norgard presents “One country, two religions, three languages,” 7:00 p.m., American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis (612) 871-4907 For more information: www.americanswedishinst.org/ASI/Events.html

September 30 “*The Opposite of Cold*” book release party, 6:00 p.m. reception, 7:00 p.m. presentation. This event is free and open to the public. Registrations are strongly encouraged. (See page 3.)

October 17 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m., *Colorado Avenue* www.ses.fi/en/film.asp?id=741 (See page 5).

November 21 Finnish Culture Through Movies group, 6:00 p.m. *Sibelius* www.artistafilmi.fi/sibelius/english.htm (See page 5).

