

FACCA



NEWSLETTER OF THE FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, INC.

September/Syyskuu 2004

Those Hags Can Sing!

By Tiina Watts

Our first program of the year, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the International Institute of St. Paul, will be a program of Finnish folk and pop music by the new Finnish women's vocal ensemble, *Pohjan akat* (Hags of the North). On a website featuring Finns and Finnish events in Minnesota,

www.minnesotafinnish.org, their bio reads: "All the members speak Finnish; they are either native Finns

or have lived in Finland and learned the language. Their mission is to share their favorite Finnish music—from folk songs to tangos, from pop songs to lullabies—and to have fun in the process. They explore Finnish music by arranging it in many ways; therefore you may see this group accompanying themselves with hand-powered kitchen utensils, cell phones or just the usual piano, guitar, accordion, recorder, electric bass, clarinet... The outcome of familiar songs often surprises the singers, not to mention the audience!"



There are 12 members of *Pohjan akat*: Eeva Savolainen, Elina Ruppert, Elina Kala, Ulla Tervo-Desnick, Anne Shadrick, Sari Rannholm, Kirsi Ritosalmi-Kisner, Milla Kokko, Minna Dunder-Beddoe, Anne Dahlman, Ann Borgwardt, and Tiina Watts (FACA newsletter editor).

Pohjan akat have performed at the Finlandia Foundation's Kalevala day last March (where they got their start), at the downtown Minneapolis FinnStyle store's open house last spring, and at various other occasions. This fall and winter is already full of performance dates for this fun and talented group. They will be doing a cultural presentation during the Adult Week at Salolampi Finnish Language Village, September 11, a few days before the FACA presentation.

A wide variety of songs will be performed at our September's FACA program. *Minun kultani kaunis on* is a well-known Finnish folk song, beginning with the verse: "My love is beautiful, though she's a bag of bones;" and ending with the verse: "When I take her to the fair, horses all start laughing." They will be singing some songs by Värttinä, Ulta Bra, Juice Leskinen, and other popular Finnish singers. There will be a song about a "flying kalakukko" (come to the program if you want to find out what that is—here's a hint, it's a type of food).

Come enjoy a very entertaining evening of harmony and laughter (out loud, even—these are not typical Finns!). The program will be followed by the usual array of delicious refreshments.

FACA PROGRAM

Pohjan Akat--first on program

Business meeting follows
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

FACA 2003–2004 Board of Directors

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President's Message

By Alan Norgard

I would like to extend greetings to all in our new season of FACA meetings and special events. This is my second year as president and so I will again be writing monthly messages about our club and, hopefully, things of interest in the Finnish community.

As you know, we have had a hard time finding board members, so at this time we can't really tell you who will be filling all the various positions. I can tell you the most likely positions will be as follows - Luella Zibell will be continuing as Secretary, and Andreas Ostenso will likely be Treasurer. We have one other person tentatively accepting a position but don't know what position they will take. There are still two other places to fill and I welcome any suggestions or volunteers.

It was a fairly quiet summer for me, with no big festivals or programs attended. I have heard from a couple of members about their trips to Finland and have to admit I'm a bit jealous. It has been a while since I've had the chance to go to Finland and I've been thinking it is about time to go again. Last year at this time I was in Maine at the kantele workshop being sponsored by the Maine Kantele Ensemble and they held the second Maine Kantele Institute workshop just a couple of weeks ago. I haven't heard from anyone who attended this year but it sounded like it would be lots of fun again. Seeing as Finnfest was held in Florida last spring there was no festival this summer. I am looking forward to next year's Finnfest in Marquette - the last one there was one of the best and I hope they will be able to equal or better their success. Watch our events calendar this October for programs by Finnish groups participating in the annual Leiv Eriksson Festival in Minneapolis during the month of October. My wife, Betsey, has been working with the planners and tells me that there will be events featuring local Finns in some of the programs. If you are not aware of the Festival, it features Nordic groups at several different locations, mostly centered at Mindekirken, the Norwegian Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

You may know Betsey and I have a "summer estate" near Grand Rapids and we spent some time up there this summer. We always have a garden and grow mostly things that don't need constant care - potatoes, beets, carrots, cabbage, onions, and brussel sprouts. If we had to live off our production this year we might have to emigrate to a warmer climate to survive. Our garden was the victim of cold weather and bad luck or bad timing. Our squash plants froze and we had to replant; our potatoes just never sprouted and we have only one carrot growing. Luckily we can go to the store and buy things to eat. I can only imagine what would have happened if we couldn't. We did manage to pick strawberries at a neighboring farm so we have lots of jam, and last weekend we picked blueberries at another "pick your own" farm so we have frozen berries to eat. We also happened to be picking at the same time as Bob and Merryalice Jones, so we were able to visit with them for a bit.

I'm looking forward to another season of FACA and hope to see all of you at the first meeting in September.



Board Notes

By Luella Zibell

The FACA Board, or what there is of it, met together at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville. New board member Andreas Ostenso was taking his Medical board exams so was not present.

The secretary and treasurer's reports were reviewed and approved. FACA programs were tentatively planned through December.

Marianne Wargelin will take over Helen Jacobsen's job as information contact for FACA. Her number is 612-374-2718. **Thank you Helen for your many years of hard work in behalf of FACA!**

FACA is still in need of a Special Events Coordinator and Hospitality chair. Contact any of the current board to volunteer or give suggestions.

The next board meeting will be Sept. 14 at the same location.

New Members

Welcome to new
FACA members:

Richard Harju
Moundsview, MN
Nina Nousianen-Radloff
Appleton, WI
William W. Sandback
San Diego, CA

Tervetuloa !



Mrs. and Osmo Vänskä

See Osmo and the Orchestra for Free!

September brings us 2 free concerts by the Minnesota Orchestra, led by Finnish native, Osmo Vänskä.

September 19, at 4:50 p.m., they will perform in the Lake Harriet Bandshell, as part of its celebration "Lake Harriet Live," and to celebrate the bandshell's restoration. "Lake Harriet Live" is a full day of music and other family events.

The second concert will be in downtown Minneapolis at Peavey Plaza, on the corner of Nicollet and 11th, at noon, September 24th. "Listen while you lunch" is sponsored by the Target Corporation. Peavey Plaza will be transformed into a picnic ground for the day, with a giant carpet of grass covering the audience seating area. In the case of rain, the concert will be moved into Orchestra Hall.

For more information, call 612-371-5600 or see the website at www.minnesota.org.

In Memory of Eino Theodore "Ted" Lucas

Eino Theodore "Ted" Lucas, born June 21, 1914 in Virginia, Minnesota to Johanna and Jakob Luukinen, died July 2, 2004. Preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn, 6 brothers and sisters, and dear friend, Irene Mauer. He is survived by daughters, Anne (Roger) Darsow and Nancy (Michael) Nytes, and by grandchildren, Andrew and Jacob Darsow, and Vicky, Elizabeth and Daniel Nytes; sister-in-law, Irma Modlin, brother-in-law, Robert Pooler; and many nieces and nephews. Ted graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Journalism; was a World War II Army Veteran, and 3M Retiree. He was a charter member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and past President of Finnish American Cultural Activities Inc. A Memorial Service was held at OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1390 E. Larpenteur Ave., St. Paul, on Friday, July 9, 2004. Memorials are preferred to Our Redeemer, or Finnish American Cultural Activities Inc. Special thanks to Dr. Craig Mommsen, and the 3rd floor nurses at St. John's HealthEast. (Published in the Star Tribune on 7/7/2004.)

Leif Ericksson International Festival

The festival this year will feature Finland and will begin with an Open House on Tuesday, October 26, with the theme: “Tango, a Finnish passion.” Dancer and musician Ralph Tuttila will entertain with perspectives from his tango travels and explain why the tango has taken hold so far north in Finland. With musician Dennis Halme and dance partner Joan Gerr, Tuttila will give a historical background, illustrate various tango musical traditions beginning in Argentina, and demonstrate tango ballroom dance styles. See website for more info: www.midekirken.org

Saarinen Church Tour Set

On Saturday, Oct. 30, from noon to 2 p.m., will be a tour of Christ Church Lutheran, 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis. Hidden in a south Minneapolis neighborhood is Christ Church Lutheran, designed by renowned Finnish architect Eliel Saarinen in 1949, the last completed work before his death. The church is included in the American Institute of Architects’ collection of 31 “buildings that changed modern life.”

Follow the guided tour led by a church docent to learn about and appreciate the simplicity of what Saarinen called the “honest” architecture of this church. In seeking to create optimal acoustics, Saarinen avoided use of any parallel surfaces in the church.

Church in Finland Role Explored

An Adult Forum and a Family Worship service will be held Sunday, October 31, at Mindekirken (Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church) 10th Ave. S. and 21st. St., Minneapolis. The Adult Forum will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will discuss “The Church in Finland Today.

The Family service will begin at 11 a.m. Children from the Finnish Language School of Minnesota will sing at the family service led by Elina Ruppert, a singer and musician, who grew up in Finland. The Mindekirken choir will sing Finnish music, and Harvey Gustafson will serve as organist.

Suomi-Koulu Teaches Children Finnish

The Finnish Language School of Minnesota (Suomi-koulu) was established in September 2002. Their purpose is to provide a motivating Finnish-language learning community for children and their parents. In addition to learning and maintaining Finnish language skills, the children will gain more knowledge and appreciation for their heritage. There are four different age groups, which meet every first and third Saturday of each month at Christ Church Lutheran in Minneapolis (www.christchurchluth.org)

Finnish treats will be available following the service.

Bloomington Symphony Orchestra plays Sibelius

The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, in connection with the Leif Ericksson International Festival, will be presenting a concert featuring Scandinavian and Finnish composers at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael’s Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington. Tickets will be available at our September FACA program, or contact Betsey Norgard at 651-786-5988.

They will perform: Edvard Grieg’s Norwegian Dances Op. 35 No. 2 & 4, Ernst Fabritius’ Violin Concerto (with Roger Frisch on violin— Minnesota Orchestra’s assistant concertmaster), Johan Svendsen’s Romance (Roger Frisch, violin), and Jean Sibelius’ Symphony No. 1 in E minor.

Newsletter Committee Change

Paljon kiitoksia to our FACA Newsletter photographer Marian Eliason! With almost everyone owning a scanner and/or a digital camera now and sending pictures via email, we haven’t needed her scanning and photographing talents as we did in the past. Many an hour was spent scanning pictures and learning how to electronically add them to the newsletter copy. Now, with digital cameras, pictures are pasted in with the touch of a button. This is one time we do not long for the “good old days.”

Finnish Courses at the University

Dan Karvonen will be teaching a variety of Finnish language courses at the University of Minnesota, starting in September. FIN 1001/4001—Beginning Finnish, is intended for those with no or very little knowledge of Finnish. The class meets Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 4:40–6:05 p.m. Students who are not regular undergraduates at the U of M should register for the course under the 4001 course designator for 2 credits and reduced tuition. FIN 1003/4003—Intermediate Finnish is intended for those who have completed a year of college-level Finnish or who otherwise possess equivalent knowledge. This class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30–8:40 p.m. FIN 3011—Advanced Finnish is intended for those who have completed two years of college-level Finnish or who otherwise possess equivalent knowledge. Meets Mondays from 6:20–8:50 p.m. and also includes a 50-minute online chat hour. 3 credits. Additional information can be found online at www.onestop.umn.edu/registrar/registration/courses.html. Information on how to register for the courses through the College of Continuing Education can be found at www.cce.umn.edu or by calling 612-624-4000.

A new class in Finnish studies will also be offered at the University this fall. The new, broadly defined social-scientific “Topics in Finnish Studies” course designator will serve instruction at the 3000 and 5000 levels. The fall schedule includes a geographical course “Europe: A Geographic Perspective,” about European identities and Finland’s role in Europe (FIN3670/GEOG 3161/GLOS 3921). The class is taught by Pauliina Raento, Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professor in Finnish Studies. For more information, contact raento@umn.edu.

Finnish Recipes:

Tomato and Onion Salad

Tomaatti-sipulisalaatti

4 medium tomatoes

1 medium onion

4 tablespoons oil and vinegar dressing

Fresh dill springs

Chop the tomatoes in coarse chunks and peel and slice the onion. Combine with the dressing and chill for about an hour before serving. Decorate with fresh dill.

Oil and Vinegar Dressing

öljykastike

1 tablespoon wine vinegar

3 tablespoons oil

1/4 teaspoon sugar

Pinch of salt and pepper.

Beat all ingredients together and pour over the tomatoes.

From: Best of Finnish Cooking, Taimi Previdi

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.**

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 _____

A Picture Review of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival

By Urho Rakkola



The Kisarit dancers performed on the beautiful festival grounds in Moorhead, Minnesota during the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, June 25–27.



The festival celebrates all Scandinavian and Nordic cultures, but this year the emphasis was on Finland and “all things Finnish.” Here people are dancing around the May Pole. There were also many information, demonstration, and selling booths of the various countries.



The handmade Viking ship and the Stav Church (pictured here) were very interesting.



The brass septet Ameriikan Poijat, with Tango Queens Eeva Savolainen and Elina Ruppert performed at the festival; as did Ulla Suokko, flutist and Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year in 2002; Kip Peltoniemi, singer, accordionist, and songwriter; the Finn Hall Band, and others. The location of the main performing area within the eating hall did cause some distraction from the performances. The festival is worth the trip, and if you get the chance, take the informational pontoon ride on the Red River.

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.

Pieniä Paloja

•The Finnish national airline Finnair has announced an average 7.5% increase in ticket prices by the end of this year. The announcement was prompted by higher fuel costs.

Finnair's competitors SAS and British Airways have already announced price hikes as a result of higher oil prices. The higher fuel costs also pushed down Finnair's result for the early part of this year. After financial items, the company showed a loss of more than EUR three million.

•English expressions are increasingly mixing in with Finnish in the colloquial speech of young Finns. In the lives of today's 15–20-year-olds, English is not so much a foreign language as it is a second language. Even English language interviews on Finnish radio programs are increasingly left untranslated. In Internet chat rooms, too, exclamations and spontaneous expressions of emotion are increasingly expressed in English. The culture of Finnish discourse has changed in a way that makes it easier to incorporate English language slogans, expressions, and wordplay. Among older Finns, however, English tends to be restricted to official connections, rather than colloquial speech. Teachers of Finnish have noticed an increasing influence of English in the language used by their pupils. Most teachers are not worried about the increase in the number of individual English-language words that pop up in Finnish speech, however, they are concerned about foreign syntactic structures that make their way into texts written by Finnish youngsters. For instance, English punctuation and incorrect case endings appear in compositions. More Finnish kids want to read their literature in English, too. For instance, one major Helsinki book store reports an increase of about one third in its sales of English-language paperbacks.

Conjugate Finnish verbs at:
<http://www.verbix.com/>

More Coming Events

continued from pg. 8

Oct. 9, Sat. Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra presents: "An Evening of Scandinavian Music," featuring Eeva Savolainen, soprano, Tom Hanson, piano soloist, and Paul Niemisto, conductor, at the Sheldon Theatre, 443 West 3rd St. (at East Ave.), Red Wing, at 8:00 p.m. They will perform Grieg's Piano Concerto, Einojuhani Rautavaara's, Concerto for Birds and Orchestra, Yrjö Kilpinen Songs, and Carl Nielsen's Heliose Overture. Adults, \$14, Students, \$8. Call 1-651-385-3667 or 1-800-899-5759 or email buytickets@sheldontheatre.org to order tickets.

Oct. 17, Sun. The Bloomington Symphony Orchestra, in connection with the Leif Ericksson International Festival, will be presenting a concert featuring Scandinavian and Finnish composers at 3:00 p.m. at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington. Tickets will be available at our September FACA program, or contact Betsey Norgard at 651-786-5988.

Oct. 26, Tues. Open House for the Leif Ericksson International Festival 2004. Ralph Tuttila and Finnish tango. For more information contact Betsey Norgard at 651-786-5988 or email her at norgard@winternet.com. (See p. 4)

Oct. 30, Sat. Leif Ericksson Festival tour of Christ Church Lutheran from noon to 2 p.m., 3244 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis. (See p. 4)

Oct. 31, Sun. Leif Ericksson Festival Adult Forum and family worship service at Mindekirken (Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church) 10th Ave. S. and 21st. St., Minneapolis. The Adult Forum topic will be "The Church in Finland Today." The Family Service will feature Suomi koulu children singing, led by Elina Ruppert, as well as the Mindekirken choir singing Finnish music, accompanied by organist Harvey Gustafson. (See p. 4)

October 28–30 Finn Forum VII, an Interdisciplinary Conference in Finnish and Finnish-North American Studies, will be held at the University of Minnesota. The theme will be "Cultural Encounters: Migration, Ethnicity, and Identities." The closing gala will be a benefit for the Timo Riippa fund and will feature Ameriikan Poijat and Koivun Kaiku Kantele ensemble, among others. To learn more, see www.esc.umn.edu/FinnForum.htm



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. 11, Sat. Salolampi Board Meeting at Salolampi Finnish Language Village, near Bemidji. If you have suggestions or comments for board members, call or email president Marv Nevala, 715-268-7884 or monevala@hotmail.com.

Sept. 14, Tues. FACA Board of Directors' meeting at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Roseville, 7:30 p.m. FACA members welcome. See p. 2 contact information.

Sept. 16–18 Suomalainen Osmo Vänskä leads the Minnesota Orchestra in Sibelius' Tapiola, as well as Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and Ives' Ragtime Dances and Janaciek's Sinfonietta. For tickets and info, call 612-371-5642 or 1-800-292-4141, or see www.minnesotaorchestra.org.

Sept. 17, Fri. FACA Monthly Program by Finnish women's ensemble, Pohjan Akat, at the International Institute, 1694 Como Ave., St. Paul. (See p. 1)

Sept. 17–19 Fall Work Weekend at Salolampi. Come help repair fences, paint woodwork, and deep clean the Finnish Language Village. Housing in the Finnish cabins, Finnish meals, sauna on the lakeshore are provided. To sign up and to get information, contact Milo Laitinen at 218-564-4266 or at laitinen@wtca.net.

Sept. 22, Wed. FACA newsletter deadline. Please email articles, recipes, calendar items, book reviews, news items, etc. to Tiina Watts at tiiwatts@usfamily.net. Pictures can be emailed to Beth Jarvis at brjarvis@umn.edu. We would love to hear from you! This is your newsletter!

Sept. 24, Fri. Kip Peltoniemi and Ralph Tuttila will be performing at the Sisu Coffee and Tea house from 5 to 8 pm. Enjoy music and humor from the Finnish triangle and beyond. No cover, great Finnish pastries and other specialties. 649 Snelling Ave. S., St. Paul, phone: 651-695-1960.

Sept. 25, Sat. Finnish American Genealogical Society meeting at 9:30 a.m. For location and other information, contact Joan Dwyer at 612-822-0743 or email her at dwyers@ties2.net.

Sept. 25, Sat. Finn Hall will be playing at Kramarczuk's from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. They are located at 215 E. Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis, phone 612-379-3018. Come enjoy Finnish music, dancing and great food! For more details, email Ralph Tuttila at raulit@msn.com.