



Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

January/*Tammikuu* 2022

Salolampi, Finnish Language Village

Amy (Iida) Tervola Hultberg, Ph.D.

Dean, Salolampi Finnish Language Village

January 21, 7 p.m. program; Zoom meeting

Salolampi has been around long enough to have grandchildren, even great-grandchildren attend. Staying true to the tenets of Finns, innovation is endless! Perhaps you remember one of the rented sites before our permanent site was dedicated in 1993 on the shores of Turtle River Lake. Maybe you remember only the red Jyringintalo as Salolampi. One thing in common that we may all have with Salolampi is that it connects us to some of the most unique memories, experiences and people in our lives.

The pandemic has afforded Salolampi many opportunities to innovate and consider new alternatives in teaching and learning. We are eager to share some of the highlights of the past few years with you. We have sought out partnerships and developed new networks both in Finland and the States, and our ability to offer high-quality programming has grown significantly. Pre-pandemic our enrollment was steadily growing, and now we can think about new integrated learning that is authentic to learners of any age. Our Salolampi community is vibrant with much to share. We exist because of the dedication and work of many. Sincere thanks for being partners on this journey.

It will be a thrill to learn with and from you in January. Because we have learned to be nimble, we will be prepared to work with you in person or virtually. Either way, you will have an opportunity to explore Salolampi. If the weather and COVID cooperate, we look forward to bringing Traveling Salolampi to the FACA meeting. If we meet virtually, then you will have the opportunity to learn through Peda.net! We are fully prepared to be flexible!

Nähdään pian,
Iida

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6815304953> Meeting ID: 681 530 4953 Passcode: MinnFinn
Past presentations can be viewed on FACA website under the Media tab.



Program in Brief

**Salolampi, Finnish
Language Village**
Amy (Iida) Tervola Hultberg
Friday, January 21, 7 p.m.
Zoom Program

FACA Event Cancellation Policy

If St. Paul public schools are canceled due to bad weather, then a FACA event scheduled for that day will also be canceled. FACA members may contact any board member if they have a question.



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President's/Interim Editor's Message

By Louise Morgan

Happy New Year! *Hyvää uutta vuotta!* Hopefully, 2022 will be a year where we can finally get together safely. I am going to be an optimist and say...we will be together once again celebrating everything Finnish! We had intended to try a combination of in-person and Zoom meetings in January, but I think with the Omicron variant running around, we will wait a little bit longer. We may try something like that later. I have to admit, there are a few good things that have come out of the Covid pandemic. We can offer options! So, if you cannot make a meeting, you can join virtually or watch it at another time.



I am going to be trying a few new things with the newsletter. I am going to try themes for each month. Next month, if I can pull it off, I am going to focus on Saunas in Minnesota. If you have any sauna stories that you would like to share, please send them to me at louise.morgan21@gmail.com. February's theme will be *Laskiainen* and March will be St. Urho's Day. Please send me your stories! I know there are wonderful memories and stories out there.

I successfully finished Finn 1001 at the U of M with Dan Haataja. I don't think I have ever studied that hard. It brought back memories of flight school where I had to memorize aircraft systems, safety procedures, you name it. I thought that was hard. I think the Finnish language is harder than the hydraulic systems on a CH-47 Chinook! I am just joking. Dan is such a wonderful instructor. He makes learning fun and takes a lot of the stress out of the process. The Finnish community is so lucky to have him.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I had a wonderful present this year. My oldest son surprised me by coming home for the holidays. He lives in Sydney, Australia. We have been separated by Covid, like so many families, for the past few years. It was such a blessing to be together as a family.
Hyvää uutta vuotta!!

FACA Membership 2022 Salolampi Scholarship Drive— January and February

FACA has historically been able to give out scholarships to the children and grandchildren of our members. This was through the participation of our members at numerous fundraising events throughout the years. Due to the contribution of everyone's time and efforts, we were able to give many children the wonderful opportunity to attend the Salolampi language camp. In the past, pre-Covid, we were able to raise funds through events like the spring Festival of Nations and the Joulu Café. Neither of those events were able to occur this past year. We would like to continue the FACA sponsorship and support of the children in our community in deepening their connection with their Finnish heritage. Due to these circumstances, we are asking for everyone's help in contributing to this year's scholarship drive. The board has had a very generous offer by an anonymous donor, and if our membership can raise \$1,000, the donor would match this for a total of \$2,000.

(Continued on page 5—Salolampi Scholarship)

Greetings from Lappeenranta!

By Emma Mulhern



Emma Mulhern

It's hard to believe that my first semester at LUT University is coming to an end. The past couple of months have been busy, but that has not stopped me from enjoying the winter wonderland all around me.

In November, I had the amazing opportunity to attend a reception for Minnesota Governor Walz at the U.S. Embassy in Helsinki. The reception was part of the governor's

international trade mission which aimed to promote trade between Minnesota, the U.K. and Finland. Two other Fulbright grantees from Minnesota were also invited, and we were all able to talk with both Governor Walz and the First Lady. Throughout the night, I connected with a number of business and education leaders. It was amazing to see all of the strong Minnesota-Finland connections that were already in place. I even ran into an old neighbor of mine at the event! Such a small world.

A few weeks after that, I went on a trip to Lapland with other international students from Lappeenranta and Joensuu. We visited the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi before we drove well above the Arctic Circle to Saariselkä. Temperatures were well below 0°F for most of our trip, but we were lucky enough to see the northern lights on our first night in Lapland. It was beautiful to watch the vibrant streaks of green move quickly across the sky. The rest of our time there was filled with sledding on the longest



Northern Lights

sledding hill in Finland, meeting reindeer and huskies as well as taking part in an "Arctic Survival Day" in subzero temperatures.

Finland has certainly treated me well these past few months, and I'm very excited to see what the next year holds.

Hyvää uutta vuotta!
Happy New Year!

What Makes Finnish So Special?

By Daniel Haataja \

The Finnish language is of course special to those with a family connection to it, or those who have studied or worked in Finland. But as most readers of *Uutiset* know, Finnish is special—or different as I like to say—because it belongs to a completely different language family from English. It's a Uralic language, while English is Indo-European.

One big difference is of course vocabulary. The basic vocabularies of the two languages share almost nothing in common—consider how utterly different family words like *äiti* (mother) and *isä* (father) are, or nature words like *järvi* (lake) and *puu* (tree).

The two languages also differ in terms of their structure. Finnish has no articles like "the" and "a," and has only one third-person pronoun, *hän*. Finnish also lacks the verb "to have." For "I have a dog," we say *Minulla on koira*, which literally means "At me is dog."

Words can also change their form dramatically depending how they're used in a sentence. The word *yö* (night) becomes almost unrecognizable in the partitive plural as *öitä*, while the word *poika* (boy) transforms into *pojilla* in the sentence *Pojilla on koira* (The boys have a dog.)

Some say these things make Finnish difficult. I prefer to say that Finnish is different. Finnish grammar is actually much more regular and logical than English grammar. Although *yö* changes into *öitä*, these changes are completely systematic, unlike the changes in the past tense of irregular verbs like bring/brought or fly/flew in English. Finnish has almost no irregular verbs or nouns.

It is true you have to learn an entirely new vocabulary, but if you also take the time to learn how its very logical and systematic grammar works, you can and will master the language. I know, as I've done it myself from scratch, as have scores of my former students, many of whom speak the language exceptionally well. *Tervetuloa mukaan!*



FACA Board Meeting—December 14, 2021

By Kendra Kauppi



Board Members:
(top row, l-r)
Louise Morgan,
Nate Hoch and
Katja Zarns;
(bottom row, l-r)
Kendra Kauppi,
Marlene Moreno
and Michelle Ranta.

The Finnish American Cultural Activities (FACA)

Board meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. on December 14, 2021. Members present were Louise Morgan, Michelle Ranta, Kendra Kauppi and Marlene Moreno. Absent were Katja Zarns and Nate Hoch.

A short meeting was held. The December program will be the *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* program, sponsored by FinnSource.

The board is actively looking to fill critical positions. Marlene Moreno will be leaving as treasurer at the end of the year, and the editor role for *Utiset* is still vacant. Recruitment efforts are still ongoing. The board will be recruiting members for the 2022–23 season.

The January program (January 21 at 7 p.m.) will be a Zoom program. Amy Tervola Hultberg will update FACA on what is new for Salolampi. We will also hear from last year's FACA scholarship recipients. The board discussed having a dual event—both in person and via Zoom.

The February *Laskiainen* program planning is ongoing. Location/day/time will be announced at a later date.

The board is exploring having a midsummer event in June. Next board meeting is Wednesday, January 17, at 5 p.m.

Conversational Finnish Class
Every Wednesday—2-3:30 p.m.
Participation via FACA Zoom Meeting
For more information, please call
Urho Rahkola at 651-429-3319

Kauneimmat Joululaulut Recap

By Ruth Erkkila

On Saturday, December 11, after the big snow, the sun came out, and the roads were pretty well plowed when it was time to drive to *Kauneimmat Joululaulut* (Most Beautiful Christmas Songs)—a Christmas sing-along event planned by several local Finnish American groups.

We followed Covid-19 guidelines with everyone wearing a mask and encouraged to keep our distance. Usually, this is an event with coffee and snacks to follow, but this year the only snacks were in the parking lot. Kathy Jorgensen came with a tray of brownies and offered them to us as we left. Others gathered by the church entrance and shared homemade *pulla*, cookies, Finnish candy, hot blackberry currant juice and good conversation.

We sang songs (with our masks on) from a booklet of *Joululaulut* used at churches throughout Finland during December. Mirja Hansen was the emcee for the event and did a great job of introducing the songs and telling us a little of what they said. It helped because we sang them all in Finnish and not all of us could understand them completely. It was great to have some of the Suomi Finland 100 choir in the audience; even when they weren't up front performing, their voices guided us in the pronunciation and helped keep us at the right place. Members of the choir, led by Eeva Savolainen, performed a few numbers as a group in front.

The *Ameriikan Poijat*, a seven-piece brass band, were up front for the entire event. They had a few solos and then, for many of the songs, accompanied our singing. Eeva Savolainen and Elina Koivusaari sang a duet with the *Poijat* and this is included on the *Poijat's* recently released CD, *Joulusauna—Finnish Christmas Music for Brass Septet*.



We also enjoyed a couple of songs sung by Jonathan Rundman, accompanying himself on guitar. He has recently published a book of Finnish hymns that are no longer in the *Lutheran Hymnal: Lost Songs of the Suomi Synod*.

As we left, we dropped our offerings in baskets. This money will be used by the Finnish Mission Society's programs for the benefit of children in developing countries. We really enjoyed seeing other people and being together once again.

SISU Finnish Language Seminars

By Kathleen Ristinen

Press Release:

"Hyvästi to the SISU Finnish Language & Culture Seminar

"The officers of the SISU (Suomen Innokkaat SISUkaat Ulkosuomalaiset) Finnish Language & Culture Seminar regretfully announce that their seminars are being discontinued. SISU seminars began in 1996 for the purpose of offering one-week Finnish language and cultural seminars every other summer. Seminars included Finnish language classes, related activities, and presentations. Another seminar was planned for 2020 when the Covid-19 pandemic interfered. Thereafter the ability to offer subsequent seminars has become increasingly uncertain.

"The officers of the SISU organization have determined that circumstances do not favor planning future seminars. Scheduling is problematic; current officers are unable to continue in their roles; numerous other opportunities for Finnish language study have become available via the internet."

SISU seminars have been effective; some individuals attended every seminar. Finnish language experience was offered by highly qualified teachers; we enjoyed many interesting and inspiring presentations; long lasting friendships developed (including at least one marriage). *Paljon kiitoksia* to all who were involved, especially the teachers, the presenters, the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and everyone who attended and supported our seminars.

FACA Needs YOU!

We are proud to announce that FACA has many exciting opportunities available for those who want to help grow and inspire within the Finnish community. These range from all levels of involvement. Even if you are able to spare only an hour a week, this would have a great impact within the FACA community. No work is insignificant!

We are recruiting for the following positions. If you would like to know a bit more about what is involved, please contact Louise Morgan.

1. **FACA Board Member**—Several members will be rotating off the board at the end of this year.
2. **Editor of Uutiset** (this newsletter).

Know What's Happening in the TC Finnish Community!

By Kathy Jorgensen

Would you like to know what's happening in the Twin Cities Finnish Community? Visit the FinnSource website (finnsource.org)—"Gateway to All Things Finnish". There you will find, among much helpful information, the **FinnSource Calendar**, which includes activities and events for the Twin Cities Finnish community. To receive a monthly email that highlights special events, upcoming social activities and occasions, as well as online and in-person educational and programming events available to the Twin Cities Finnish community, you can **subscribe to the monthly FinnSource Newsletter**.

It's as simple as this:

1. Go to the website: finnsource.org
 2. On the home page, you'll see the option to "Subscribe to our Monthly Newsletter."
 3. Click on the "Subscribe" button.
 4. You will then be asked for your Email Address, First name/Nickname, Last name (optional), and Country (optional).
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(Salolampi Scholarship continued from page 2)

These funds would be available only to the children and grandchildren of FACA members. I realize that many of you, as do I, give every year to Salolampi. During this challenging time of Covid, we hope you will consider giving so that we can continue the wonderful FACA tradition of sponsorship. Donations are tax deductible.

Two ways to donate:

1. **Check:**
Mail to FACA
P.O. Box 58708
Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708
2. **Paypal** option on the FACA website.
Please put **FACA Salolampi scholarship** in the comment section.

Minnesota and Finland Joining Forces in Sustainable Development and Energy Technology

By Risto Sivula

The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Minnesota, Business Finland and the Minnesota Trade Office hosted a virtual roadshow May 27, 2021. A combination of 28 businesses and experts from both countries gave detailed insight on how Minnesota and Finland could together find ways to promote sustainable solutions and drive the energy sector forward.

As a continuation to the roadshow, Minnesota welcomed a business delegation from Finland October 19–21, 2021, that included Finland’s Minister of Development and Trade Ville Skinnari and Ambassador Mikko Hautala. A Letter of Understanding on further collaboration was signed by Governor Walz and Minister Skinnari.

The focus areas of the Letter of Understanding (LoU) are clean energy, sustainable bioeconomy and digital technologies, including Internet of Things technologies. Both parties expect the LoU to increase innovation, trade, investments and people-to-people contacts between Finland and Minnesota. One key partner will be the University of Minnesota.

Finland’s goal is to be the first fossil-free advanced economy in the world and climate-neutral already by 2035. This is a key area where Finland looks forward to further cooperation with Minnesota. As cold-climate regions, Minnesota and Finland share similar challenges in reaching the clean energy targets. Finnish companies are world leaders in wood-based innovation as an alternative for fossil-based products. Another area for cooperation is the transition to electric vehicles. Furthermore, Finland and Minnesota are both mining regions with access to critical minerals.

To cap off a busy fall of joint activities, Governor Walz traveled to Finland with a 50-strong business delegation November 17–19, 2021. The visit in Helsinki included company visits, a meeting with President Niinistö, and a visit to Löyly, a public sauna on the Baltic Sea in Helsinki.

FACC-MN was founded in 2010 to promote business, financial, professional and trade relations between Minnesota and Finland. We are an all-volunteer organization and are always looking for expertise and opportunities to strengthen our network. Please contact us at info@facc-mn.com or call (612) 759-5205 if you are interested in our activities.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Gov. Tim Walz (left) and Finland’s foreign trade minister Ville Skinnari sign letters of understanding for Minnesota and Finland to collaborate on developing sustainable technology. Also pictured is Honorary Consul Elaine Kumpula.

President Niinistö Met with Minnesota Governor Tim Walz

President of the Republic of Finland Sauli Niinistö met with Governor of Minnesota Tim Walz at Mäntyniemi on Thursday, November 18, 2021.

During the meeting, the president and the governor discussed, among other things, relations between Finland and Minnesota, and climate change.

Governor Walz’s three-day visit is part of Finland’s new state-level cooperation with the United States. The goal is to advance cooperation and business between Finnish and American actors.

From Finlandia Foundation

Finlandia Foundation regrets that, due to COVID-related concerns, it did not host the reception honoring Osmo Vänskä that had been planned for Saturday, January 8, following the Sibelius Festival concert. The Finnish community is planning a tribute and farewell to Osmo Vänskä, tentatively scheduled for the concert weekend of June 3–4, when the orchestra performs the world premiere of the new symphony by Jaakko Kuusisto. We will notify you of the details as they are confirmed.

Book Club Update

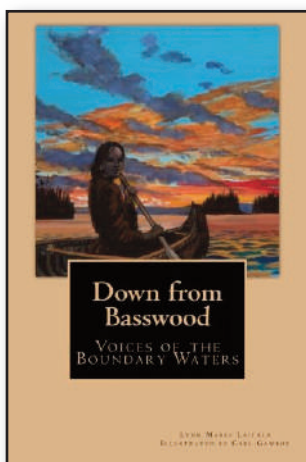
By Louise Morgan

Our next book will be *Down from Basswood: Voices of the Boundary Waters* by Lynn Maria Laitala. It's a series of interconnected stories that tells the history of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The characters in the stories are Finnish immigrants and their descendants from a large intergenerational family and Native Americans in another intergenerational family. Characters from the two families interact and, in a case or two, intermarry. Their stories describe the history of the Boundary Waters from logging and mining to establishment of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

Time: February 23, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Central Time (U.S. and Canada)

Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6815304953>
Meeting ID: 681 530 4953



January 2022 Calendar

NO FESTIVAL of NATIONS in 2022. We have been notified that there will NOT be a Festival of Nations in 2022. Hopefully it will be back in 2023.

Jan. 21. 7 p.m., Zoom: Membership Program

Salolampi Update: Amy Tervola Hultberg, Dean, Salolampi Finnish Language Village.

February. Laskiainen: Joint outdoor celebration with Suomi-koulu. Como Park Fire pits. Come and celebrate in the traditional fashion. Bonfire and sledding! Date and time to be determined.

Feb. 23. 6:30 p.m., Zoom: Book Club: Basswood, Voices of the Boundary Waters.

In Memoriam—Stella Arola

Stella (Penttinen) Arola of Crystal, Minn. passed away on Dec. 20, 2021. She was born March 17, 1934, to William and Mary Penttinen. The eldest of four children, she graduated from Frazee High School in 1952. After graduation Stella moved to Minneapolis and worked as a legal secretary for Kinney & Lange for more than 40 years until her retirement in 1999. Stella married Harvey R. Arola on July 5, 1953, making their home in Crystal where they raised three sons. Stella loved learning, sewing and traveling, having made 11 trips to Finland. She was an active member of FACA and spoke, read, and wrote fluent Finnish. She was a recipient of the 2015 FACA Sauna Bucket award, along with her sister Edith Boos.



Stella is survived by her husband Harvey, children Bruce (Kerry) Arola and Jeff (Rita) Arola and five grandchildren, sister Edith Boos and brother Richard Penttinen. Stella was preceded in death by her parents, son David and brother Edwin. Her memorial service was Dec. 27 from Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 5005 Northwest Blvd., Plymouth, Minn. to whom memorials may be sent.

Call for Sauna Bucket Nominations

The Sauna Bucket will be awarded at our March program. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, get your nomination in by January 30, 2022. Send your nomination to Louise Morgan at louise.morgan21@gmail.com.

FACA Membership

A one-year membership for \$25 provides you with eight issues of this newsletter, plus other benefits. To subscribe or renew, complete this form and mail with your check to FACA, P.O. Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708. (Check your email message for a membership expiration warning or your mailing label for an expiration date.)

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*Finnish American Cultural Activities
is dedicated to exploring and preserving
Finnish and Finnish American heritage.*
www.finnfaca.org

Covid Restrictions in Finland

Finnish capital region urged to hold on to restrictions for another two weeks

Helsinki Times —04 JANUARY 2022

Restrictions in the Finnish capital region should be extended for two weeks until January 24, recommends the task force coordinating the regional response to the coronavirus epidemic. The current restrictions have shut down facilities such as gyms and other indoor sports and exercise facilities, the pool areas of spas, public saunas and swimming halls, dance studios and amateur theatres.



Mäkelänrinne Swimming Hall shut down following a ban instituted on indoor public events and gatherings on 28 December 2021. (Markku Ulander—Lehtikuva)

Also theme and amusement parks, the indoor spaces of zoos, indoor playgrounds and common facilities of shopping centers have been cordoned off from the public to rein in the spread of the omicron variant. The coordination group is recommending that the restrictions be applied to people born before 2003.

The strict restrictions on indoor public events and gatherings should similarly be extended for two weeks, until 31 January. Municipalities and the hospital districts are consequently preparing to scale down non-urgent activities to dedicate their resources to vaccinations, the treatment of coronavirus patients and other urgent and necessary care.