



# Uutiset

*Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.*

## **May–June/Toukokuu–Kesäkuu 2022**

### **Diane Jarvi—In Person!**

**Friday, May 20, 7–9 p.m**

***Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Parkway,  
Minneapolis, MN 55406***

A singer, songwriter, guitarist, kantele player and poet, Diane Jarvi has been a performer of folk and world music in addition to her own compositions for 30 years. Diane Jarvi's seven solo recordings and five books of poetry under Diane Jarvenpa include explorations of her ethnic heritage. Her newest CD, *This Ordinary Day*, is a return to her Americana roots, but also includes a song with lyrics inspired by the great Finnish immigrant writer Helmi Mattson. She has received a McKnight–MacPhail fellowship grant, grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board, Finlandia Foundation and Suomi Seura. She is a teaching artist with the Alzheimer's Poetry Project. Visit [www.dianejarvi.com](http://www.dianejarvi.com)

Refreshments and reconnecting with friends will follow the program!



### **Midsummer Festival Picnic**

**Saturday, June 11, 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Como Park, Hamline Avenue and Midway Parkway**

*By Marlene Moreno*

Do you recall the last time you saw Finn Hall and/or Kisarit Dancers perform? FACA records show that both groups entertained us at their Laskiainen Program back on February 21, 2020! Well, we have great news. Finn Hall and Kisarit Finnish American Folk Dancers will be part of our Midsummer Festival, June 11, 2022. A picnic lunch will be served while we enjoy good music and watch Kisarit dancers welcome children to learn folk dance steps (maybe a few adults could learn, too?) Please join us and share a summer day outdoors at Como Park from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. Location: Hamline Ave. and Midway Parkway, West Picnic Grounds, Shelter 50.

All are welcome and we look forward to greeting old friends and meeting new friends.

#### **Program in Brief**

**Diane Jarvi**  
*Singer, Songwriter*  
**Friday, May 20, 7–9 p.m.**  
**Danish American Center**  
**3030 W. River Pkwy., Mpls.**

#### **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.

## FACA 2021–2022 Board of Directors

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## President's/Interim Editor's Message

*By Louise Morgan*

Okay. Enough already! I am ready for spring. Tomorrow is May 1. Normally I have made a few trips to the nurseries, filling my car with a riot of color. Not this year. Last month I wrote that it was sleeting. At least today it is rain. Progress, I guess.

Well, I am not being truthful, because I am heading out on a trip to Australia! Yes, my husband and I are finally going to meet our granddaughter! She turns two, and we will be there for her birthday. We are staying the entire month. My philosophy is when you travel so far, you might as well stay a while. We will be traveling around the country a bit as well. My son and his family live in Sydney. It really is a beautiful city. It is autumn in Australia. So...I might miss spring here. This year, that is not a big hardship. I hear that at our cabin, there is still two feet of ice on the lake! Yikes!

Enough about me. Exciting events are coming up that I need to tell you about. First, we are going to be having our first in-person program! Yes, we will be in-person, inside, again. Diane Jarvi will perform for us at the Danish American Center on May 20. We will have music and treats. A chance to meet up with FACA friends! Then, on June 3, there will be a farewell event for Osmo Vänskä at Orchestra Hall. The details are in this newsletter. On June 11, we will be hosting our first Midsummer Festival/picnic. Finn Hall and the Kisarit Dancers will be there. So, food, music, and fun—three opportunities to celebrate with the Finnish Community! May 20, June 3 and June 11—mark your calendars!

Hope to see everyone at the Midsummer! I am so looking forward to seeing everyone!

Kiitos, Louise



## Young Leaders Board Brings Fresh Perspective to FFN

*By Betsey Norgard, adapted from FFN news and articles*

In early 2021 Finlandia Foundation National launched the Young Leaders Board (YLB), which works alongside FFN trustees.

This was something that FFN not only sought, but realized was imperative, in order to attract younger people who can get to know, love, and nurture the organization for the future.

“Our goal is to tap the talent pool of the generation of Finns, Finnish-Americans, and others in the U.S. who are intrigued by Finnish heritage and contemporary Finland and are looking for a way to pursue and advance those interests,” explained FFN President Anne-Mari Paster.

“We are thrilled with the enthusiastic response and involvement of the eight charter members of YLB,” Paster added. “They bring a diverse set of skills, interests, and experience to their volunteer positions.”

In an FFN newsletter [<https://finlandiafoundation.org/young-leaders-board/>] YLB member Lauren Tuiskula shared YLB's goals: “In the near term, we plan to focus on

*Continued on page 6 “Finlandia Foundation National”*

## A Visit from the Ambassador and Farewell to Osmo—Join Us on June 3

By Betsey Norgard



Mark your calendars for **Friday, June 3**, for a special evening of **Welcome and Farewell** at Orchestra Hall—Welcome Finland's visiting Ambassador Mikko Hautala and bid farewell to Maestro Osmo Vänskä, who leaves the Minnesota Orchestra after 19 years.

- **6–7:30 p.m., Target Atrium—Join our gathering** with Twin Cities enthusiasm as we showcase our Finnish and Finnish-American organizations.
- Meet Ambassador Hautala and mingle with trade officials visiting Minnesota.
- Share your appreciation for Osmo as we extend thanks to him.

Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar are available. Sponsored by Honorary Consul Elaine M. Kumpula, Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities, and FinnFest USA. **There is no cost for this gathering, but you must register at Eventbrite.** The deadline for registration at Eventbrite is **Friday, May 20**. URL: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meet-the-ambassador-and-bid-farewell-to-the-maestro-tickets-327627010207>

**8 p.m., Concert Hall—Enjoy the music** with discounted tickets for Maestro Vänskä's last program of Finnish music. The orchestra performs the world premiere of the late Jaakko Kuusisto's final work. Also on the program is Mendelssohn's *Concerto for Violin, Piano, and Strings*, performed by Concertmaster Erin Keefe (violin) and Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen.

Learn more about the program and buy your tickets online. Enter the code FINLANDIA20 to receive a discount for price groups 3–5. Don't wait to buy tickets—they are selling fast! For additional information and questions, contact FinnSource.

On Friday, June 3, the concert will be broadcast live on Twin Cities Public Television (TPT), as well as livestreamed on the Minnesota Orchestra website and will be available at no cost through Monday, June 13. It will also be broadcast live on Classical Minnesota Public Radio, hosted by Melissa Ousley. <https://www.mnnesotaorchestra.org/digital-concerts/>

Contact Betsey Norgard with any questions, at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com) or 651-270-9784.

## What Makes Finland the Happiest Country in the World for the Fifth Straight Year?

By CNBCTV18.com | Mar 21, 2022, 06:59 PM IST (Published)

Gifts for new mothers, endless parental leaves, support for the unemployed, and of course free education and healthcare, make it fun to be a Finn.

Finland has been crowned the happiest country in the world for the fifth straight year in an annual UN-sponsored index, while neighboring Nordic countries also continued to rank high.

Finland's score continued to be "significantly ahead" of the top 10 countries, the 10th World Happiness Report by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network published on March 18 showed.

### Managing the Pandemic

According to the report this year, the Nordic countries showed higher levels of personal and institutional trust and were able to better manage the coronavirus pandemic.

The Nordic countries recorded 27 deaths per 100,000 people from COVID-19 between 2020 and 2021 against 80 in the rest of Western Europe, CNBC reported.

### What Makes the Finns and Danes So Happy?

"There are a lot of factors that impact happiness, everything from biology to income levels to the city they live in," Meik Wiking, CEO of Happiness Research Institute in Copenhagen, told *CNBC Make It*.

In Finland, new mothers are gifted a new baby box with around 63 items to help with the child's growth in the first year.

"You don't have to buy anything for the first two-three months, except diapers," Maria Ainamo-McDonald told CNBC.

Apart from gifts, Finland and other Nordic countries also give 10 months of parental leave, of which the father gets nine weeks. Both parents stay home for the first three weeks and the rest of the time is shared between the parents until the baby is nine months old. Parents can stay home until the child is three years old without losing their job, although the stipend is much lower.

Finland and Denmark provide free education and healthcare, which are some of the biggest perks for the people living in these countries.



## Where Do Finnish Words Come From?

By Daniel Haataja

Did you know that Finnish used to have a different word for mother instead of *äiti*? And that the word *ranta* (shore) is a loanword from the Swedish word *strand*?

All languages borrow words from other languages—most typically words referring to new concepts or technology, but even basic words can be borrowed. Sometimes words are borrowed relatively unchanged, while often they're adapted to such an extent that native speakers don't recognize them as loanwords. All English speakers see *burrito* and *croissant* as coming from Spanish and French, but few know that *sofa* is a borrowing from Arabic and *window* from Old Norse, the latter originally meaning *wind eye*. English has been an especially active borrower of words from other languages, with estimates of one-third of our vocabulary coming from French, and another third from Latin.

Finnish is no different. The linguistic ancestors of the Finns interacted with various groups of people over time, and these interactions have left various layers, or strata, of loanwords in the language. Words referring to body parts, nature, and kinship terms typically occupy the native core stratum in every language. In Finnish, words like *silmä* (eye), *koivu* (birch), and *isä* (father) fall into this category.

Lying atop this native stratum in Finnish are the Indo-European, Baltic, Germanic, Slavic, Swedish and English strata. To the surprise of many, the word *äiti* (mother) is actually an early Germanic loanword, having replaced the native word *emä*, which, along with *emo*, nowadays only refers to animal mothers. Agricultural words like *heinä* (hay) and *puuro* (porridge) are Baltic loanwords, while religious terms like *risti* (cross) and *pappi* (minister) come from Slavic. The Swedish stratum is the largest, comprising half of all loanwords. The words *tuoli* (chair), *ranta* (shore), and *uuni* (oven) all belong to this stratum. The current source of loanwords is of course English, and *sheivata* (to shave) is just one example of many.

Interested in learning more? Come join my *All About Finnish* class taught at the American Swedish Institute this summer via Zoom. *Tervetuloa!*

**The *Uutiset* is seeking a new editor. If interested, call President Louise Morgan at 612-590-1673.**

## Emma Mulhern—April Program Recap

By Louise Morgan

If you were not able to make it to Emma's presentation, I would encourage you to check out the YouTube video on FACA's website, [finnfaca.org](http://finnfaca.org). Emma presented a delightful look into university life at LUT University in Lappeenranta, Finland near the Russian border as well as walked us through the Fulbright program and all that it has to offer.

Emma's interest in Finland began when she was in high school. She was interested in participating in an exchange program, and she wanted to go to a country where she could play hockey. Finland fit the bill. The rest is history.

Even though Emma is not ethnically tied to Finland, she has become immersed in the language and culture. She has a minor in the Finnish language and is a fluent speaker.

Emma is pursuing her master's degree in supply management with a minor in sustainable business. LUT specializes in sustainable focused degrees. Because of Covid, her classes were both online and in person. The student population is between 5,000–6,000. Emma has taken advantage of student life. It was fun to hear about the different clubs and events. She has been very active on campus. Emma even started a coffee hour, where they could practice speaking Finn. I was surprised to hear her say that she had to make an effort to speak Finnish because her classes are all in English, and she is around mostly international students, who are also speaking English.

Once again, check out the presentation. I watched it again and I enjoyed it as much the second time around as I did the first.

*Kiitos, Emma!*



### ***Tervetuloa!***

#### **Welcome, new FACA members!**

Joanna Slawinska, Lebanon, New Hampshire  
Heidi Wherland, Bloomington, Minnesota  
Kris Knetsch, St. Paul, Minnesota  
Doug and Alice Haataja, Cloquet, Minnesota

## Pop-up Pastor in a Barrel

Submitted by Ralph Tuttila

Various folks would just drop by unannounced to visit at our rural home on Stoneville Road, west of the small town of Ishpeming in the UP of Michigan. The farms were small with gardens, maybe a milking cow, a few chickens, perhaps a pig or two. In that area most men worked in the iron ore mines. It was said that one had to work in the mine to support a farm in that rocky land. There were no phones in homes to inform that company was coming. Some visits may have been planned in advance or made by correspondence, but mostly folks just came a-knocking. Saturday was sauna night when typically relatives or friends from town came by.

Sometimes guests were from far away who made extended stays.

One particular guest was an old friend of the family from way back and would show up to stay for perhaps many days. He was a traveling preacher named Reverend Heinonen who had been a regular guest at the dairy farm where mom grew up just over the hill from us by the creek. He apparently was a friend of my late maternal grandfather, Gusti Pihlaja. The farm was sold the year I was born when Grandfather became ill and died shortly after.

Rev. Heinonen did not have a car, he just arrived and mom felt he was special so she fed him, washed his clothes and seemed to have meaningful discussions with him (in Finnish). The pastor was a quiet man small in stature, had good posture and was always neatly attired in his Sunday best. He was only slightly taller than me and had an air of dignity about him. Finnish was his sole language.

He would stay with us for a few days then moved on to parts unknown. He liked to sauna as we all did and that was the only place where we bathed, as that was true for most Finns.

On one fine late summer afternoon when the little Rev. was our guest, my mom asked me to check the fire in the sauna and make sure there was enough water in the big wooden barrel. The barrel held about 30 gallons of cold water. The hot water was heated in a separate steel barrel by a gravity system using the sauna stove (*kiuas*) heat. I was probably around eight or nine years old but was quite responsible when it came to tending the sauna—tending the stove, hauling the firewood, filling the barrels with a hose from the house in warm weather and by buckets in the winter.

Neither Mom nor I knew the Rev. was already in the sauna when I left to do my chore, so I went through the dressing room and all was quiet save for that familiar comforting sound of the wood snapping in the *kiuas* as it burned and the clanging of the water being heated by the stove.

The sauna was rather dark as there was no window in that room, only a window between there and the dressing room with a small bulb showing light in both spaces.

I opened the door, stepped next to the big cold water barrel to check the level which now was unusually high when suddenly there was what seemed to be a creature from the deep rising up from the cold water barrel where the skinny tiny Rev. had been completely submerged. Like a great lunker trout popping up for a floating grasshopper on the surface, he splashed water, spit out a spout of water and released the breath he was holding.

I jumped back in reflex. What I witnessed was so beyond belief. Was this a magic trick of his? Maybe a holy stunt that old Finnish preachers engaged in? I knew about the sacrament of baptism. Was this a refresher baptism? It startled me, but I don't remember what I may have said if anything. I doubt that I had many cuss words at that tender age to express my true response of how he scared the @#%\$ out of me. I ran back in the house relating this tale to my mother who looked at me with a sense of disbelief. Nothing was said when the preacher came back into the house, and he sat at the kitchen table, poured his coffee into the saucer and sipped it with quiet relish.

But later Mom told me that maybe it was best if we emptied the cold water barrel and refilled it before we sauna'd.



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

## Down from Basswood— Voices of the Boundary Waters

By Lynn Laitala (Printed with permission)

### The Big Wedding—Clara Keskinen's Story (Third Installment)

“Clara, are you getting serious about Sam?”

“He’s more fun than anyone else I’ve gone out with.”

“What does his family think?”

“His folks are nice enough.”

“They probably hope it’s just a passing fancy. Mama is worried, you know.”

“What should Mama worry about? It’s not like I’m behaving like Ida.” Ida was going out with every boy in Ely. Laila let my reference to our younger sister pass.

“Clara, the Stepanoviches are Catholic.”

Of course I knew that. I said nothing.

“How serious are you, Clara?”

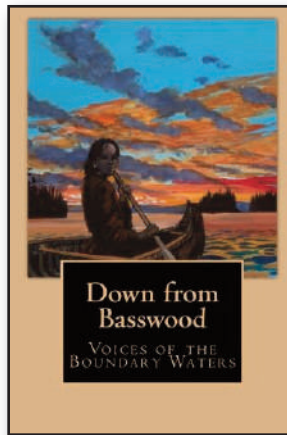
“I’m serious.”

“Will Sam leave his church?”

“No.”

“Will you convert?”

“I don’t know.”



“You’d better know. Can you go to Latin Mass, give up meat on Fridays, raise your kids Catholic, never use birth control?”

I thought about it. And then, for Sam, I decided yes. Mama and Papa took it well, better than Laila thought.

We told Sam’s folks that we wanted to get married. We explained that I would become a Catholic. His mother tried to talk us out of it. She said that kind of mixing wouldn’t work. We argued that we were different and finally one day she threw up her hands and said, “Well, then you be my new daughter.”

She walked across the kitchen, grabbed me by the shoulders and kissed both my cheeks.

Father Petrovich was more skeptical. “You convert to Catholicism not from the heart but for the boyfriend,” he said.

“It is my heart’s deepest desire to please God and to please my husband.” Father Pete taught me the catechism and converted me. The hard part came next.

Sam and I got his folks together and explained that we would have a quiet, private ceremony. “That’s not a real wedding,” said Mother S. “I’ve heard about you Finns. You think a big wedding celebration is drinking black coffee in a green church basement. No. My son and his bride will have a first-class wedding.”

The whole town drank and danced for three days.

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### Continued from Page 2, “Finlandia Foundation”

creating opportunities to practice and learn the language, raising the profile of Finnish popular culture, and broadening our reach in order to welcome more Millennial Finns into the Finlandia Foundation community.” In addition, YLB members work with FFN committees to achieve organizational goals, both short and long range.

Last August the YLB visited the Finnish Embassy and met with Ambassador Mikko Hautala and his team. Tuiskula described their “spirited conversation” about enhancing Finland’s global image and creating opportunities to learn and use Finnish.

This Embassy visit led to further collaboration between FFN, its YLB, and the Embassy. On February 10, the



Embassy hosted “Visions on Sustainability,” a virtual event targeted to Young Finnish Americans that focused on Finland’s climate actions.

Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities is seeking partners to create a similar local group to engage younger generations with the extensive Twin Cities Finnish community. If you wish to learn more about this project or know of young people to invite, please contact Betsey Norgard at [bjnorgard@gmail.com](mailto:bjnorgard@gmail.com).

Check out the YLB’s first two, quick initiatives:

- Young Finnish Americans on LinkedIn: A space to connect and network ([https://www.linkedin.com/signup/cold-join?session\\_redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Elinkedin%2Ecom%2Fgroups%2F13959445%2F&trk=login\\_reg\\_redirect](https://www.linkedin.com/signup/cold-join?session_redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Elinkedin%2Ecom%2Fgroups%2F13959445%2F&trk=login_reg_redirect))
- Curated Spotify playlist of YLB’s favorite Finnish music (<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6JcU2aVCA0QZvD7EqY3zjI?si=uCXkhVE3QR63Yyhc6XnUDQ&nd=1>)



## Window into Yesterday

By David Kess for the Ely-Winton Historical Society

### Boarding Houses

The Finns called it a *poikatalo*—or boarding house. Literally this is translated as a “boy house”—a place where a man could rent a room, get meals, lunches, and his laundry done. Not uncommon for these rooms to have multiple tenants—some shared the same bed as shifts for the men changed. Bathing? Well, that depended on the nearest neighborhood sauna. Most boarding houses seemed to be owned and operated by Finns, but the Slovenians and Swedes also had some. Winton probably had as many as Ely or even more, one of which was operated by the Knox Lumber Co.

The early days of logging and mining brought many single young men from Scandinavia and Yugoslavia to Ely. Families in Europe were large. The oldest son inherited the family farm and the younger brothers were left to fend for themselves. Many single young men looked across the ocean to seek a better life for themselves.

Whether it was down in the mines in Ely, at the lumber mills in Winton, or in the forests these men found hard lives before and after 1900. The boarding houses provided clean accommodations, meals were plain but hearty, and premises were secure. They were staffed by a bevy of white aproned women who cooked, cleaned, and laundered dirty clothes and bed linens. Drinking was much frowned upon.

Eventually these boarders saved enough of their wages to send for a wife and perhaps even children. Modest homes were built and boarding houses became a thing of the past. Often very large, up to 15 and more rooms, the owners of these large buildings reverted to renting single rooms but no longer provided meals. Some later converted the rooms into apartments. Looking around town one can guess where some of them were.

Today, the ones that are still standing can be most often recognized by being too large to be a usual residence, usually long and narrow, and with a simple gable roof. Each had been a real Ely institution in its day.

[https://www.facebook.com/ElyWintonHistoricalSociety/photos/pcb.2765718686907223/2765718026907289/?\\_\\_cft\\_\\_%5b0%5d=AZWFiJo7T4-HhWtuoBlagOfgyY6f89BWq03UyFRG1aKKiNqUR3eRuAaUBRjVO0I4WtIBE9Vj5DFR-L81Gk2uELhoZW6ANxsndnNI1kyUQwiBRIKq-HNvVDTL11C2nB9q219vzNjrm2t7LWyciOrCiMe&\\_\\_tn\\_\\_=\\*bH-R](https://www.facebook.com/ElyWintonHistoricalSociety/photos/pcb.2765718686907223/2765718026907289/?__cft__%5b0%5d=AZWFiJo7T4-HhWtuoBlagOfgyY6f89BWq03UyFRG1aKKiNqUR3eRuAaUBRjVO0I4WtIBE9Vj5DFR-L81Gk2uELhoZW6ANxsndnNI1kyUQwiBRIKq-HNvVDTL11C2nB9q219vzNjrm2t7LWyciOrCiMe&__tn__=*bH-R)

## May–June 2022 Calendar

### May 20. (Friday). 7 p.m. FACA In-Person Event.

Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy, Minneapolis, 55406. **Diane Jarvi**, singer, songwriter, guitarist, kantele player and poet is performing at FACA's first In-Person Event! Diane has been a performer of folk and world music in addition to her own compositions for 30 years. (See page 1.)

### June 11 (Saturday). 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Midsummer

**Festival/Picnic.** Como Picnic Pavilions. Music and entertainment by Finn Hall and Kisarit Dancers. Food and Fun! More details to follow.

### Tuesdays. 2–3:30 p.m. Conversational Finnish Class

(*Oppitunti*) Zoom. For more information call Urho Rahkola at 651-429-3319.

## COKATO EVENTS

### May 28 (Saturday) CFAHS Spring Festival 10 a.m.–

2 p.m. Temperance Corner, Hwy. 100 & 3, Cokato. Program at noon honoring veterans; buildings open, bake sale at 10 a.m.

### June 25 (Saturday) Midsummers Festival. 6:30 p.m.

Video at the Temperance Hall followed by a dessert table at the school. The evening is highlighted by the kokko at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## 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, Inc.**

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

**www.finnfaca.org**

## Mölkky—Get Ready!

Spring is finally here, and folks seeking to entertain family and friends at the park, the beach, or on their dandelion-riddled lawn should look no further than the beloved Finnish outdoor game, Mölkky. Easy to learn and fun for players of all ages, Mölkky (pronounced Meul-kuu) has been growing in popularity ever since its 1996 launch. Its roots, though, trace back to a centuries-old Finnish game.

The modern version features 12 numbered pins called “skittles” (note: not the kind you eat) and one throwing pin called the mölkky. The 12 skittles are arranged in a tight cluster and players take turns throwing the mölkky from a distance of about 11 feet. If just one skittle is knocked over, the player scores the number written on that skittle, but if more than one falls, the player scores points equal to the total number of skittles that fell. After each throw, fallen skittles are put upright where they landed, meaning that the cluster gradually spreads out over the course of the game. Play continues until one team reaches exactly 50 points. (But careful! If you go over 50, your score resets to 25.)

If your family is anything like mine, the “official” rules will quickly give way to fiercely negotiated norms and

idiosyncratic dictates (we call this “house rules”—others may call it “anarchy.”) But if you prefer to do things by the book, know that the International Mölkky Organisation has published detailed game rules. And for those who want to watch experts in action, various national and international championships take place all over the world each year. (Check out <https://www.international-molkky.org/> for more information.)

To get your own set: Mölkky sets are available through many major retailers (look for the registered trademark after the name if you want to be sure you’re supporting the original Finnish company and not international imitators.) Happy playing!

*By Nathaniel Hoch*

