

FACA Uutiset

Finnish American Cultural Activities

Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

October/Lokakuu 2022

Diane Jarvi—In Person!

Friday, October 21, 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.

Program in Brief

Diane Jarvi

Singer, Songwriter

Friday, Oct. 21, 7–9 p.m.

Danish American Center

3030 W. River Pkwy., Mpls.

Refreshments and reconnecting with friends will follow the program!



***Finn Fun
Display***

***FACA
Suomi-koulu
Finn Source
Collaboration
Board***

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President's/Interim Editor's Message

By Louise Morgan

Happy Fall! The weather has been just glorious. But we do live in Minnesota, so I am sure the other shoe is going to drop probably sooner than later. I was talking to my 101 mother-in-law who lives in Texas. I was telling her about the weather. She was originally from North Dakota. She commented that she missed the fall. I said, I love the fall, I love the spring, I love the summer...and well, I enjoy winter as well! I think we are blessed to live in such a beautiful state.



I really enjoyed seeing everyone at Finn Fun Day. More than 80 people attended! It was so much fun talking to everyone. I included several pictures so that if you missed it, you can enjoy some of the day. Finn Fun Day was a collaboration between FACA, Suomi-koulu, Finn Source and the Sisu Environmental School. We hope to do more collaborations within the Twin Cities Finnish Community organizations. We are stronger together!

I am excited about Ismo, a Finnish Comedian, coming to the Twin Cities. If you haven't had a chance, look him up on Google. He is very funny. He is going to perform both in the Twin Cities and Duluth.

The upcoming year also has me excited. The board has decided to try both in-person and Zoom events. While we prefer in-person events, Zoom does give us some flexibility and allows us to schedule people that we otherwise would not be able to invite as speakers. And we realize that Covid is still out there, and not everyone is comfortable with indoor events.

Lastly, WE NEED YOUR HELP! Whether you volunteer to be on a committee, bring treats to a program, join the board, or want to be the editor of the *Uutiset*—WE NEED YOU! We currently have two openings on the board. If you have any questions about what being on the board is all about, please give me or another board member a call or shoot us an email. If you would like to know what being the editor of *Uutiset* is about, shoot me an email. I hope to hear from you! Let's show some *Sisu*.

Fun at Finn Fun Day!



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.



*Face painting: Judy Mikkola
and Anne Shadrick*

Finn Fun Day 2022

By Ruth Erkkila

More than 80 people came out for Finn Fun Day at Phalen Park on September 10. It was a great day: nice weather, plenty of food, coffee, games, music and many old and new friends. The event was put on by FACA, the Finnish Language School of Minnesota (Suomi-koulu) and Finn Source. Marlene Moreno oversaw the food served in the picnic pavilion. There were hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, pickles and Pam Rahkola's famous *pulla* plus a birthday cake to celebrate Suomi-koulu's 20th anniversary.

The music was by Steve Solkela and his "Overpopulated" One Man Band direct from Palo, Minnesota. He started at 10 a.m., singing and playing his accordion and continued on until the end at 2 p.m. Sometimes he had a cymbal attached to his head that he would strike by nodding his head. He had a noise maker that he blew into, rattles and bells attached to his knees and drums he played with his feet. Sometimes there was so much going on it was hard to pay attention to the song.



Steve Solkela and His "Overpopulated" One Man Band

Out on the grass people were playing games that included a bean bag toss and a Mölkky tournament. All of the children got a prize for participating; next year we'll try to do better about awarding prizes for the highest scores.

People came from all over the Twin Cities and even one family came from California. They had seen the event on Facebook and thought they would combine this event with scouting a place to relocate after the wife leaves the navy. They were looking for a place with some people with Finnish heritage because the husband was born in Finland. They got the prize for coming the farthest. We hope to see them again.



FACA members enjoying their conversation



Let's play Mölkky!



Mirja Hanson and Richard Harju



Marlene Moreno

FACA Board Meeting—September 26, 2022

By Louise Morgan



Board Members: Louise Morgan, Nate Hoch, Kendra Kauppi and Katja Zarns.

The FACA board met on September 26, 2022.

Present at 5:35 p.m. start time: Louise Morgan, Nate Hoch and Kendra Kauppi; Katja Zarns joined later.

Board Positions

- Marlene Moreno and Michelle Ranta have departed from the board.
- Michelle will help on an as-needed basis and will still update the FACA Facebook page.
- Louise Morgan will continue as board president.
- Kendra Kauppi volunteered to record board meeting notes.
- Nate Hoch assumed the position of treasurer.
- Katja Zarns will continue to maintain the FACA website.

Finn Fun Day

We still need volunteers for the 2022–2023 season. We were not successful in finding volunteers at the Fall Finn Fun Day. The music entertainment costs were covered by FACA and a donor. Next year we will need to budget for the full cost.

Discussion about how FinnSource and FACA can collaborate on sharing information. Also, the status on recruiting an editor for the newsletter was discussed. Question was asked if the president can continue in both positions on an extended basis. The president commented that the board might need to discuss alternatives if we cannot find an editor. The *Uutiset* is produced by volunteers. FinnSource pays for their newsletter.

Discussion about whether to go to a once-a-year membership renewal versus the current system.

Decision was to leave membership payment “as is” as Urho Rahkola has a system for alerting members about renewal information.

Programming

The International Institute of Minnesota (IIM) rates have increased from previous years (documents will be attached and shared for board members). The board discussed finding a new permanent location. Alternatives could be the Danish Institute, continue with Zoom for winter meetings and possibly use the IIM for special occasions (St. Urho’s Day dinner/dance).

October—Diane Jarvi will perform at the Danish American Center.

November—Elaine Kumpala will update FACA on all that is going on between Finland and Minnesota. This meeting will likely be via Zoom. The board is considering two events in November. The second could be a *pulla* or *korvapuusti* baking session.

December—Joint event with Finnish Community—Kauneimmat Joululaulut.

March—St. Urho’s Day Dinner. Finnish *tapas* and dance. FACA would sell tickets. Planning for the event should start now.

The next FACA board meeting is October 17, 2022, at 5 p.m.

Headlines from Finland’s *Helsinki Times*

• **Minister of Defense Antti Kaikkonen** said Finland and Sweden will proceed to move in step toward membership in NATO. “Because we embarked on the NATO project together with our closer partner Sweden, we’ll travel this road together. We have no alternative plans. We’ll seek to get over the finish line together, as was our original intention,” he underscored on *YLE Aamu* on Thursday.

• **The Government of Prime Minister Sanna Marin** (SDP) on Wednesday replied to an interpellation submitted by three opposition parties: the Christian Democrats, Finns Party and Movement Now. The parties demanded that the government address their concerns about electricity prices, the functioning of the energy market and the approach taken to the recent crisis at Fortum.

• **According to Asuntosäätiö’s Happiness at Home** survey, home has the greatest impact on the happiness of Finns, alongside health and relationships. According to the recent survey, the general happiness of Finns is on the decline, and the feelings experienced at home have undergone a change. The national Home Day is celebrated on Saturday, October 8—the importance of the home is emphasized during difficult times.

• **FINNAIR** announced it will begin consultative negotiations with its staff over the termination of up to 200 jobs globally, including 120 in Finland. The Finnish majority state-owned airline said the negotiations will concern about 770 employees working in executive, expert and managerial roles in Finland. They will not, however, concern crew or other operative employees in any of its countries of operation.

Greetings from Lappeenranta!

By Emma Mulhern

The school year kicked off quickly at the start of September with orientation and many events. I was an exchange student tutor, meaning that I was very busy helping my tutees to get acclimated and prepared for the upcoming semester. At the annual Beach Party, my tutees carried me into the lake along with all of the other tutors. The water was cold, but that didn't stop me from having fun.

Later in the month, I had the opportunity to attend my first annual ball. This annual ball celebrated the 31st birthday of Enklaavi, the business student guild on campus. Annual balls have a certain etiquette that you



**Emma at Enklaavi
Annual Ball**

must follow, with rules about what clothes to wear (tailcoat for men and floor length dress for women) and how to wear your guild ribbon. First we had the cocktail party, where other student organizations presented the Enklaavi board with gifts. Then we had the evening meal where we ate and sang songs. Students and professors also received awards for their excellence at this event. The following day there is always the *sillis*

which is more like a traditional student event with games and dancing. This year's theme was "Survivor" (like the TV show).

At the end of September, we organized a "Finnish Evening" for international students. We had a presentation about Finnish culture, baked *korvapuusti*, and enjoyed sauna by the lake. Everyone appeared to have enjoyed the event, although the same can't be said for the *salmiakki* that we offered them.



**Emma at
Survivor-themed Sillis.**

In the coming days, I will visit Repovesi with my friends for a day hike in the park. We're hoping to see some spectacular fall colors, which we've already been able to enjoy here in Lappeenranta. I look forward to making the most out of fall while it still lasts!

Is There a Suomi-buumi (Finland Boom) Happening?

By Daniel Haataja

When I looked at the class list for my Beginning Finnish class at the University of Minnesota before the start of this semester, I couldn't believe my eyes. Nineteen students? What's going on here? The last time I had so many students in my beginning class was 10 years ago. What on earth could be responsible for the upsurge? Less commonly taught languages, or LCTLs as we call them in the business, have been experiencing across-the-board drops in enrollments over the last several years. Might this be signaling a new direction?

My mind immediately started searching for reasons—perhaps renewed interest in Finland due to the press coverage of it joining NATO over the past year? Or maybe young students, who tend to spend time on social media, think that Finland has a hip, young prime minister who enjoys her free time, just as they do? Or perhaps people have finally come to their senses and realize that Finnish is not a difficult language as they've been told, but instead an incredibly logical and beautiful one?

Whatever the reason, I'm happy about it. The pandemic changed for forever the way we offer language classes at UMN, and even though most classes are now back in person, I teach my classes in a hybrid format. The beginning class meets two days a week in person and two days on Zoom. Even on the in-person days, students are allowed to attend remotely if they like. To make this work, the Finnish courses are held in a special room equipped with three large screens and cameras and microphones that follow and pick up whoever is talking. Such technology, along with flexibility on my part, has made it easier than ever to learn Finnish, literally from anywhere in the world Internet access can be found.

FINNISH VS <i>other</i> LANGUAGES	
ENGLISH	MAY
GERMAN	MAI
DUTCH	MEI
SPANISH	MAYO
ITALIAN	MAGGIO
LATVIAN	MAIJS
NORWEGIAN	MAI
PORTUGUESE	MAIO
POLISH	MAJ
FRENCH	MAI
SWEDISH	MAJ
FINNISH	TOUKOKUU
WWW.HERFINDLAND.COM	

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

ISMO—Twin Cities Here I Come!

December 12, 2022

Two shows: 5–7 p.m. and 7–9 p.m.

by The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce MN

Ismo—2014 Laugh Factory in Hollywood “The Funniest Person in the World”—an event you don’t want to miss!

A wordsmith extraordinaire, ISMO has performed to sold-out crowds for years and has appeared on national television numerous times; *Last Call with Carson Daly*, *Conan*, *The Late Late Show with James Corden* and NBC’s *Bring the Funny*.

ISMO is the ultimate observer, who uses his outsider’s point of view to find humor in the most ordinary things.

Two (2) shows. Monday, December 12, 5–7 p.m. and 7–9 p.m. Get your tickets

now as the shows will sell out fast! Doors open at 4 p.m. for the 5–7 p.m. show.

Due to the nature of things, the suggested minimum age is 15. ISMO will be opened by Miska Kajanus, a surprising comic with a twisted way of looking at life. Originally from Finland, for Miska it’s not easy to be in a new country, get in shape, or even to choose what to eat.



ISMO with MISKA is made possible by Finlandia Foundation National. St. Paul appearances are organized in co-operation with the Finnish American Chamber of Commerce Minnesota, FACA and FinnSource.

ISMO is now available to buy tickets:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ismo-twin-cities-here-i-come-tickets-421874346527>

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

Finnish American Folk Arts Series: Saijaleena Rantanen Presents Finnish North American Working-class Women and Music in the Early 20th Century



This presentation will focus on working-class women of Finnish background and their musical activities in early 20th century North America. Women played an active

role in organizing the cultural life of immigrants. They also wrote songs, sang in choirs and participated in demonstrations in defense of women’s rights and better working conditions. Who were these women and what do we know about them? The songs by and about Finnish immigrant women offer an interesting perspective on the activities and goals of working-class women at the grassroots level.

Please register for this free virtual event here:
<https://finnfest.us/pages/webinar-programs>.

Saijaleena Rantanen works as a university lecturer at the Sibelius Academy of the University of the Arts Helsinki. She is a music historian, and her research interests are in social, political and cultural history of music. She is particularly interested in people and phenomena that have been marginalized in history. Her research interests include migration, labor history and the role of women as musical and cultural influencers. In her current research project, she is studying the music culture of the “Red Finns” in North America and Soviet Karelia from the late 19th century until the late 1930s.

Co-sponsored by FinnFest USA and the Nordic Folklife project at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the folk arts series features artists, community members, culture workers, and scholars—all experts in various forms of Finnish folk arts. Links to the virtual program will be sent to your registered email address one day in advance of the event.

Although this event is free and open to anyone who can and wants to take part, we do hope you will consider donating to the FinnFest USA organization, whose hard work and dedication makes events like this possible. If you have the ability to donate any amount of money to FinnFest to support future programming, please visit their donation page. Thank you for your generosity.

**FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL
PERFORMER OF THE YEAR KENT WASHBURN
ON THE MIGHTLY WURLITZER AT THE FARGO
THEATRE, FEATURING THE W929 SILENT
FINNISH FILM *MUSTALAIŠURMAAJA*
(*THE GYPSY CHARMER*)**

**Red River Theatre Organ Society
49th Annual Silent Movie Night
Saturday, October 15, 2022**

Mr. Washburn scored the film entirely with folk and popular Finnish music to match the lively story and colorful characters. Kent grew up in Ithaca, New York, where his mother, who was born in Finland, and his father were founding members of the Finger Lake Finns. He studied organ and music at Syracuse University and now lives in the Washington, D.C. area.

The Performer of the Year is a program of Finlandia Foundation National, the leading source of support for Finnish culture in the U.S.

The 49th Annual Silent Movie Night celebration opens with a 3:30 p.m. reception to meet Mr. Washburn at First Lutheran Church Great Hall, 619 Broadway. There will be time to have dinner at one of the local eating establishments before the evening program.

The evening program will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Fargo Theatre, 314 Broadway, with a performance by Fargo Theatre house organists. At 8:30 p.m. Kent Washburn and Mustalaishurmaaja (The Gypsy Charmer) will perform.

For tickets visit Red River Theatre Organ Society (<https://www.rrtos.org>). Tickets are also available at the door. Tickets: Students \$10; Adults \$17.

Hosted by Finlandia Foundation Red River Finns Chapter with the support of the Nordic Culture Clubs



Kent Washburn and the Fargo Wurlitzer

October–November 2022 Calendar

October 21. (Friday). 7 p.m. Diane Jarvi, (IN-PERSON EVENT). Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN 55406. This singer, songwriter, guitarist, kantele player and poet will be performing at FACA's first In-Person Event! Diane Jarvi has been a performer of folk and world music in addition to her own compositions for 30 years.

November 18. (Friday). 7 p.m. ZOOM. Elaine Kumpula, Honorary Consul of Finland.

December 12. (Monday) 5–7 p.m. and 7–9 p.m. ISMO. “The Funniest Person in the World”. Buy tickets online. See page 6.

December. *Kauneimmat Joululaulut*. Time and location to be determined.

- **Tori.** Time and location to be determined.



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.

P.O. Box 580708

Minneapolis, MN 55458-0708

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

www.finnfaca.org

What Is *Sisu*?

***SISU*—The Finnish Art of Courage**

By Joanna Nylund

Sisu could well be the favorite word of the Finnish people. Popularized in the 1920s but originating in the hazy past, this untranslatable term refers to a mix of courage, resilience, grit, tenacity and perseverance—characteristics that have shaped not just the fate of a nation but the individual lives of Finns on a daily basis.

Finland ranks consistently high in international surveys of happiness. A small country of roughly five-and-a-half million people, tucked away in the northeastern corner of Europe, Finland has nevertheless—in a quiet, understated way—made its mark on the world. You would be hard-pressed to find a bragging Finn, as blowing your own horn is considered extremely uncivilized. Ask a Finn what the secret to our success is, and you are likely to get a shrug and a mumbled objection to there even being one. But those who believe that it could be down to *sisu* are on to something. We are secretly proud of our *sisu*, you see.

So what does happiness mean for a Finn? Peace and quiet, order, independence, functionality and fairness all rank high, with “Spending time in nature” being listed as a top happiness contributor in a recent survey. Finnish ideals are still colored by a history of scarcity and having to tame a harsh environment. Which goes some way toward explaining why, in this age of comfort, many Finns still prefer their summer cabins to lack basic amenities and why we have a love-hate relationship with the climate.

Ultimately, *sisu* has a proven track record. Finland has built, and rebuilt, its future several times over. Looking at *sisu* as a guiding ethos in life, I believe it has much to offer us.

