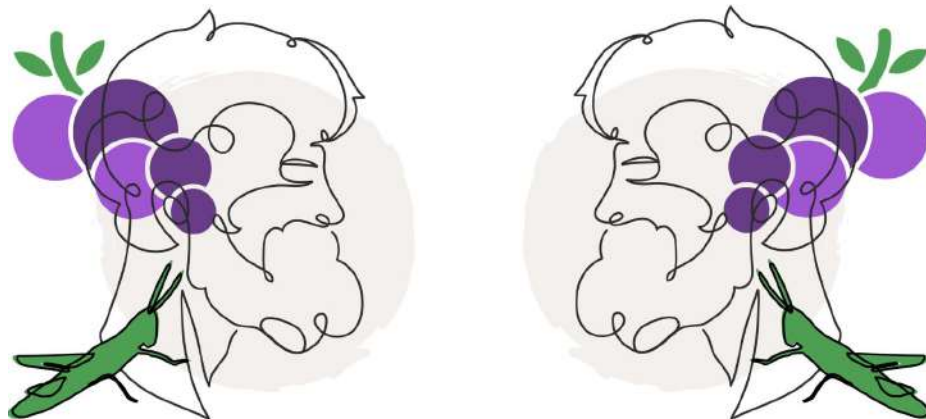




Uutiset

Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.

March/*Malliskuu* 2023



St. Urho's Day Celebration + Pea Soup Cook-off

FOOD + MUSIC + DANCE + FRIENDS

FRIDAY 03.17.23 | 6:30PM | DANISH AMERICAN CENTER

Info: members, please bring a dish to share if you can, based on your last name: A-D—dessert E-J—salad K-O—appetizer or side dish P-Z—bread
Suggested Donation: \$5.00 member, \$10.00 non-member

We will announce the winner of the 2022 Sauna Bucket Award honoring a FACA member who has contributed to FACA and the Twin Cities Finnish American community in an exceptional way.

FINNISH AMERICAN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FACA 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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FACA 3015-2016 B

President's Column/ Interim Editor

Louise Morgan

Happy St. Urho's Day month!

Last weekend, we had a wonderful time at the Laskiainen event. I have to admit, I did not know what to expect. I had never been to Lebanon Hills. It is a beautiful park. The day was a glorious winter day. We had fresh snow, so the children and adults had fun sledding. I enjoyed the fire and catching up with old friends and making new ones. Next year, if you have a chance, I would really encourage you to come out and enjoy laskiaspulla and coffee. It was a fun event between FACA and Suomi Koulu.

I want to share some news about *Uutiset*. Our Graphic Designer, Darlene Esko, has been sidelined for a while. Darlene is the one who takes all of the articles and pictures that I throw her way and does her magic and turns them into the *Uutiset*. I am so grateful for all that Darlene does for FACA. While Darlene is out, Mary Belanger has graciously agreed to fill in as the Graphic Designer. Kiitos Paljon Mary. I really do not know what we would have done in this interim period. Get well Darlene and thank you Mary! We still are looking for an editor. I have been doing it for the past year and 1/2, and I am not sure how much longer I can continue being president and editor. So, if you have any interest, please let me know.

I am really excited for our St. Urho's Day event. We will be hosting our first pea soup cookoff! As of this newsletter, we have 8 participants. If you want to enter, there is still time. Every pea soup participant will receive a St. Urho's Day Swedish dishcloth. The winner will be awarded the prestigious Pea Soup Ladle. And Finn Hall will be providing music for our enjoyment and dancing. You do not have to make soup to come and have fun! We will also be awarding the Sauna Bucket award. A big night..do not miss it!

Remember to wear purple and green!



Louise and Mia Morgan

St. Urho's Day Activities

Wear purple

The color of St. Urho's Day is purple. Mark the day by dressing up in purple. Wear purple suits and if you want to look minimal, a purple scarf would look lovely. Go the extra mile by dying your hair purple.

Eat Finnish food

St. Urho's Day is a celebration in honor of the Finnish people. Why not celebrate the day by indulging in Finnish cuisine? Come and participate in our first pea soup cookoff!

Join the celebrations

Come and join us on March 17th, Danish American Center as we celebrate with a pea soup cook off, music and dancing! Let us help St. Urho drive out those grasshoppers!

FACA board minutes

February 27th, 2023

Present: Louise Morgan, Katja Zarns, Nate Hoch and Kendra Kauppi

Presidents Report _____

Discussion on potential new board member. Discussion tabled until March. Decision will be briefed to members for consideration at a future event.

Louise briefed board about upcoming meeting hosted by Elaine Kumpula, Finland's honorary consul, about possibility or interest in pursuing a common space for the Finnish community.

FACA Salolampi scholarship fundraiser off to a slow start, \$300 out of \$1000 goal raised so far. Working on the application process for the FACA community that will be rolled out soon, as Salolampi is accepting applications now.

March Uutiset will be late. Darlene Esko is currently unavailable. Mary Belanger has generously offered to step in while Darlene is out. Discussion about Uutiset and cost of mailing. See Treasurers update.

Treasurer Update _____

86% of FACA's income goes to printing and mailing of the newsletter. This only leaves 14% for events/scholarships. Discussion held on how to reduce costs. A proposal will be made to the membership at a later date.

Program Update _____

March – St. Urho's Day Dinner. **March 17th at DAC.** Pea Soup cookoff! 8 people have entered the cook off. Finn Hall will be providing music.

April/May – still under discussion. If you have any suggestions, please contact a board member.

Fundraising - Fundraising to support Salolampi scholarships for FACA members family and friends will continue this year. February – March.

Sauna Bucket Award Will be awarded at the St. Urho's event.

March Board Meeting in person. Date TBD
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Greetings from Lappeenranta!

Emma Mulhern

The first two months of the new year have flown by. At the start of the semester, I helped at a number of events for the new exchange students that had just arrived. At one event, the new students had the opportunity to sew their first patches onto their student overalls. Despite having many patches to sew onto my own overalls, I ended up not having any time to work on them during the event because many exchange students didn't know how to sew and I had to teach them the

basics. It was a fun event regardless and hopefully the students learned a thing or two.

A few weeks later, I had the opportunity to visit two nearby islands, Karhusaari (bear island) and Ruohosaari (grass island), which are both located in Lake Saimaa. The lake freezes over in the wintertime which makes it easy for anyone to walk or ski to these islands. During both trips, we explored the islands and enjoyed Finnish makkara over a campfire. We saw numerous ice fishers, skiers and even a fox on the lake!



Emma Mulhern on hike with friends

Most recently I attended the Bring-a-Finn sitsit. A sitsit is a traditional Finnish academic table party, where students sing songs, eat dinner, and enjoy some beverages. The event was unique because you had to come in pairs of two. One person had to be a Finnish student and the other had to be from another country. I went to the event with a Finnish friend of mine. It was so great to see so many nationalities intermingling. We sang songs in a variety of languages and enjoyed a fun time together.

The rest of the spring semester will be spent working on my master's thesis, finalizing some coursework, and participating in different student events. I especially look forward to celebrating Finland's longest Wappu here in Lappeenranta.

Hope you are enjoying the fresh snow in Minnesota!



Spring semester fun!

FACA and Suomi Koulu Celebrate Laskiainen February 25

Ruth Erkkila

The sun shone down from a clear blue sky onto a foot of sparkling new snow at Lebanon Hills Regional Park as FACA and Suomi Koulu celebrated the traditional midwinter holiday, Laskiainen, at noon on February 25. The winds were calm and the temperature in the 20s. The roads were plowed and the firepit/picnic area was cleared of the new snow as about 40 people gathered around the fire to enjoy a coffee and a Laskiais pulla with strawberry jam and lots of whipped cream.



Our photographer—Kathy Jorgensen

Laskiainen, Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras are celebrated the Tuesday before the beginning of Lent and typically mark the time when people think about putting away winter activities and start looking toward spring. Finnish tradition celebrates



Conversation around the firepit.



Kicksledding at Laskiainen

by sliding down a snow covered hill and eating fatty meats and soft cardamom flavored buns, Laskiais pulla.

We roasted hot dogs over the fire and ate them with the traditional trimmings. There was coffee, tea and hot chocolate to drink. FACA President Louise Morgan made a large batch of Laskiais pulla buns from a Beatrice Ojakangas recipe and we ate these with jam and gobs of whipped cream.

There were plenty of benches arranged around the fire pit to sit and enjoy the food, good conversation and the beautiful views of the ski trails and the frozen lake. Those with more energy headed for the sliding hill or the cross country ski trails. Some put on snow shoes and trekked across the frozen lake. The park had wooden kick sleds available and I saw one with a child seated on the sled, another child pulling and an adult guiding the way from the rear with a regular well placed kick. There were smiles all around.



Ruth Erkkila with coffee and laskiaspulla



St. Urho's Day Dishcloth—Louise Morgan, Janie Ahola, Judy Mikkola, Marlene Moreno

Mini Yard Sale

March 17th at St. Urho's Event!

Kathy Jorgensen

Thanks to generous donations from members, we have a number of items to sell at the March 17th St. Urho's event at the DAC! We'll have a Mini Yard Sale with such fun Finnish items as: Wooden Finland-shaped clocks, Iittala glassware, woven chair runner, knick-knacks, wall hangings, art prints, as well as books from the FACA Book Sale collection. All proceeds go directly to FACA! Cash or check only. See you there!



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

Red River Finns Update

Ellen Liddle

The Red River Finns are hosting a one-day Sauna Festival on April 1, at the Plains Art Museum in Fargo, ND. In the parking lot, Folkways Log the Sauna, a woodfire barrel sauna will host up to six people for each one-hour session. Log the Sauna is owned by Folkways, a business that supports the preservation of the community's culture.



Indoors, the Red River Finns will serve sweets in the reception area where guests can view a display of sauna memorabilia. The table shown in the attached pictures is only a small portion of our display.

Admission to this family-friendly event is free with a \$20 charge per person for the sauna experience.

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.)

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

I prefer to receive my FACA Uutiset (please check one)

____ electronic copy via email

____ paper copy

Greetings from new Salolampi Dean Jen Pulju Porter

Hyvää kevättä!

I'm happy to introduce myself and hope to meet many more FACA members. When I'm not at Salolampi, my name is Jen Pulju Porter, but everyone at Salolampi calls me Jenna.



It's pronounced the Finnish way with a 'y' sound, like 'Yenna.' At Salolampi everyone chooses a Finnish name, and I ended up with my Finnish name because the very first summer I went to Salolampi, the name Jenni was already taken. So, I've been Jenna ever since. :)

My own Finnish-learning journey began as a 10-year-old villager, as I went off to Salolampi with very little Finnish knowledge. That eventually turned into

six unforgettable summers as a villager and a lifelong passion for Finland and Finnish. Since then, I've spent a semester as an exchange student in Espoo, Finland, studied Finnish at the University of Washington and Indiana University-Bloomington, and lived in Finland with my own family. This summer will be my 10th summer on staff at Salolampi. I currently live in Colorado with my husband and our three

children. When I'm not at Salolampi, I work as a Finnish-English literary translator, working mainly with children's and young adult books.

My path to learning Finnish has been fun and also unexpected, and I suspect many of the villagers you support with scholarships will also take similarly winding paths. Salolampi is so grateful for the scholarships that FACA is able to provide to our villagers, allowing them to spend their summers immersed in Finnish.

I'm honored to have been selected to continue sharing Salolampi with the wider community and am looking forward to working with new and returning villagers, families, and staff, as we create an authentic Finnish-immersion experience and help villagers develop a lifelong passion for Finland and competency in Finnish.

You can find out more about our programs and register villagers on our website and keep up with the latest Salolampi news by following our social media channels on Facebook and Instagram:

<http://www.concordialanguagevillages.org/youth-languages/finnish-language-village>

<https://www.facebook.com/Salolampi>

<https://www.instagram.com/salolampi/?hl=en>



PEA SOUP WITH PORK

Beatrice Ojakangas

2 cups dry yellow Swedish peas
3 quarts water
1 (3 pound) lean fresh pork roast
3 medium onions, sliced
½ teaspoon ground ginger
¼ teaspoon whole allspice
1 teaspoon dried leaf marjoram
Salt and pepper to taste

Sort and wash the peas and place into a deep soup kettle with the water. Soak overnight. Simmer over medium-high heat for 2 hours or until the peas are softened. Add the pork roast, onions, ginger and allspice. Simmer two to three hours until the pork is tender. Skim fat from the surface. Add the marjoram and salt and pepper to taste. To serve, place the pork roast on a platter and cut into slices. Serve on top of rye bread slices. Makes 6 servings.

Salolampi Fundraising Hei FACA friends!

Come join us for our second annual Salolampi FUN_raiser! Fun and knowledge go hand-in-hand for children and/or grandchildren of FACA members through scholarships. We are on our way to reaching our annual goal of \$1,000 to continue to support sending our FACA members children, grandchildren, relatives, friends to Finnish Language Village programs. We have raised \$300.00 so far. FACA has continuously been a support to Salolampi with scholarship donations, and last year, we were able to up our scholarship amounts, due to your generosity. So, let's all support our children with a tax-deductible donation. Let's reach the \$1,000 goal. What an exciting promise for future students to continue participating in summer programs at Salolampi! Every dollar helps! Only \$700.00 to go!

Ways to Donate: 1. Send a check to FACA, PO Box 580708, Minneapolis, MN 55458; in memo area, write Salolampi fundraiser. 2. Go to the FACA website and use the Paypal option. Please annotate in the memo space that this is for the Salolampi fundraiser.

Kiitos! We are on our way!

HISTORY OF ST. URHO'S DAY

From Finland Mn Website

St. Urho is an unusual character. As legends have it, the saint chased the grasshoppers out of Finland shouting at them, "Grasshoppers, Grasshoppers, Go to Hell!" But why did he want grasshoppers to disappear from Finland? This was so the wine vineyards could be saved from destruction. He also wanted to save the grapes and the worker's jobs, all while feeding on only sour milk and fish soup. Thanks to his noble deeds, he became a hero. That sounds similar to St. Patrick, doesn't it?

Legend also has it that St. Urho was inspired by St. Patrick. As the Finnish version of the Irish saint, you will find statues of St. Urho, one such in Minnesota, depicting him holding large grasshoppers in honor of his sacrifice. People wear purple and green on this day and celebrate by drinking wine and reciting this unusual story. The story is unusual because St. Urho doesn't exist and never has! His is a story born purely out of fascination and humor. However, many people claim to know how St. Urho's Day originated. They say that the originator is a department store owner Richard Mattson in Virginia, Minnesota who along with some friends created the character as a joke.

The story quickly spread all over the country, mostly to the southern states. The Finnish living in these areas would celebrate the saint as part of their national heritage. Some other people say that Finnish resident Sulo Havumaki of Bemidji, Minnesota is the creator of the holiday and he changed the theme from plague to grasshoppers.

Annual St. Urho's Day Celebration

March 17th, 18th, and 19th, 2023

Finland Minnesota

St. Urho is a fictional Finnish saint who is said to have chased away the grasshoppers to save the grape crop. St. Urho's Day is traditionally March 16th, and there are widespread celebrations across northern Minnesota, and indeed, many places with populations of Finnish descent.

Finland, Minnesota has long celebrated St. Urho's Day (March 18th, 2023 will mark the 48th annual celebration), but in 2007 the committee who had been putting on the event for years decided to retire. For a brief time it seemed that maybe Finland, Minnesota would no longer have the saint's celebration. However, Friends of the Finland Community decided to step in and continue the tradition. In Finland, MN, St. Urho's Day is usually celebrated the Saturday closest to March 16th. There is a beauty pageant, a parade, music, facepainting, food, snow sculptures, and other community festivities.

An [informative site](#) about the history of St Urho.

St Urho's Celebration in Finland, MN [Facebook page](#).

Ode to St. Urho

*Ooksi kooksi coolama vee
Santia Urho is ta poy for me!
He sase out ta hoppers as pig as pirds.
Neffor peefer haff I hurd tose words!*

*He reely tolt tose pugs of kreen
Braffest Finn I effer seen
Some celebrate for St. Pat unt hiss nakes
Putt Urho poyka kot what it takes.*

*He kot tall and trong from feelia sour
Unt ate kala moyakka effery hour.
Tat's why tat kuy could sase toes peetles
What krew as thick as chack bine neetles.*

*So let's give a cheer in hower pest vay
On Sixteenth of March, St. Urho's Tay.*

Richard Mattson and Gene McCavic

Translation:

*One, two, three, five
Saint Urho is the boy for me.
He chased out the grasshoppers that were as big as birds,
Never before have I heard those words.*

*He really told those bugs of green,
Bravest Finn I've ever seen.
Some celebrate for St. Pat and his snakes,
But Urho boy has got what it takes.*

*He got tall and strong on feelia sour (sour buttermilk)
And ate kalla moyakka (fish head stew) every hour.
That's why that guy could chase those beetles,
That grew as thick as jack pine needles.*

*So let's give a cheer in our best way,
On the sixteenth of March – St. Urho's Day!*





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

Calendar

March 17th St. Urho's Day Celebration! Ooksie kooksie coolama vee, Santia Urho is to pay for me! March 17th (St. Patricks Day, but hey those other people are celebrating the other Saint) 6:30 P.M., Danish American Center

April 21st TBD

May 19th TBD

June Midsummers — Watch for more info

Update on Jeanne Swope —

Jeanne Swope's daughter posted on Fb that Jeanne has moved into a memory care unit. Her new address is 3700 Cedar Lake Avenue in Minneapolis. Her daughter sometimes checks her email and Fb, but if you would like to contact Jeanne she would enjoy hearing from her Finnish friends, the old fashioned way.



Jeanne Swope
3700 Cedar Lake Avenue
Minneapolis Minnesota 55404



Marjetta Gabriel's parents sauna somewhere in Canada