



*Newsletter of Finnish American Cultural Activities, Inc.*

**September–October/Syyskuu–Lokakuu 2024**

**2024  
FINN  
FUN  
DAY**

# FINN FUN DAY

Kickstart your fall before activities, events, and Finnish language classes by joining us for a day of food, music, games, and activities! Finn Fun Day is a multi-generational, family-friendly event that was started as a collaboration between FACA and Suomi-koulu. It has since morphed into a multi organizational event.

All are welcome whether you are Finnish or are curious about other cultures or all things Finnish! Tervetuloa to the 4th Annual Finn Fun Day!

- ✓ FOOD
- ✓ MUSIC
- ✓ GAMES & ACTIVITIES
- ✓ FUN

**WHEN**

🕒 **SEPTEMBER 14 @ 12-3pm**

**WHERE**

📍 **Danish American Center**

DAC - 3030 W River Pkwy, Minneapolis, MN 55406

## Proposed FACA 2024–2025 Board of Directors

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## President's/Interim Editor's Message

*By Louise Morgan*

It is a beautiful morning. *Se on kaunis aamu!* I am currently up at my cabin in northern Minnesota. We just came back from a fishing trip in Canada. The weather was not the best, a bit on the cool side and rainy for a few days, but we did have some sun, and it was fun being with family. My family has gone to this resort in Ontario since the 60's. My parents started going there with my aunt and uncle. My aunt and uncle were part of a group of Finns who would descend on Crawford's Resort during the summer to trout fish. There were the Luopas, Lumppios, Tuomalas, Palarantas, to name a few. My father was made an honorary Finn and allowed to be part of the group. I have fond memories of going up there, listening to all the tall tales around the campfires at night. But they were all serious about fishing. We would head out around 7:30 in the morning, and we would come back when someone would say on the CB, *Paukuu* Time, around 4 p.m.! I found out recently that *paukuu* is not a real word, and that the proper word would be *kippis*. Well, everyone understood what that meant, and we would head back in for happy hour.

I am including in this newsletter our calendar for the year. We are very excited about the upcoming year. Please check your emails, because not all of the events will be on the third Friday of the month. We hope to have several pop-up events as well. We have three on our radar that we are hoping to offer. They are a book club Zoom with the Finlandia Foundation author of the year; another is making Finnish Stars for your tree, and another is a knit along. So stay tuned and watch your emails.

We will be starting with our big event on September 14, Finn Fun Day. I hope to see you there!



*Still Smiling at the End of the Town Hall Meeting!*



## What is summer bliss...besides a jump in the lake after a sauna? **BLUEBERRY PICKING!**

By Louise Morgan

I know my title is a bit long, but it says it all. Taking a sauna and jumping into the lake, multiple times (I say you must do at least three sessions) is a wonderful way to spend your summer, but I have to say my ultimate favorite summer pastime is PICKING BLUEBERRIES.

This year was one of those amazing years. The frost held off until berries were formed, we had lots of rain, I mean lots, and we did finally get some needed sunshine. I started off the year going to my known blueberry spots in May, looking for blossoms. Then I ventured out in June to see if those blossoms turned into berries. All you berry pickers know that those blossoms are fragile, and many things can make them fall off before they become a berry. I even did not gripe about those horrible little black flies that can make sitting outside miserable, because they pollinate the blueberries. The weather was great, the flies did their job, and the berries were plentiful! Now I just had to wait and pray.

I checked again in July, several times in fact. Finally, at the end of July, they miraculously plumped up and turned blue. I recruited my husband, and we headed out to the secret berry patch. You know, you take the location of your berry patch to the grave with you! Anyway, we went on a hot day. I think it was probably 75 degrees and sunny when we were picking. It was the type of picking where you can sit down and hold the branch over your bucket picking. I was in heaven! I picked, ignored the mosquitoes and flies, just focusing on my picking...plunk, plunk, plunk. Have you ever wondered why it takes so long to cover the bottom of the pail? I was in heaven, picking, sweating, and just enjoying summer!



So what did get we get? Well, I made four pies and canned 20 jars of blueberry jam. Still have to make another batch! My cousin Nick thinks I am crazy. I told him, the taste of a wild blueberry is the taste of summer.

## "From Toveritar to Today"

### *"From Toveritar to Today: Exploring Weather Narratives in Finnish-American History"*

Lotta Leiwo, Doctoral researcher, University of Helsinki  
Daniel Necas, Archivist, Immigration History Research Center Archives

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024—5:30–8 p.m.**  
**311 Andersen Library, University of Minnesota;**  
**222–21st Ave. South, Minneapolis**

Lotta Leiwo is interested in Finnish women immigrants in the U.S. who were active in the Finnish Socialist Federation (FSF) during the early 20th century. Her studies include how Finnish-Minnesotan women spoke and wrote about nature, especially weather and climate. How did early perceptions of life in a "promised land" compare to the realities that women encountered in their everyday lives? How was nature "politicized?" Leiwo has focused her research on the writings and records of the FSF and its newspaper, *Toveritar* (The Woman Comrade).



Daniel Necas, archivist at the Immigration History Research Center Archives, will describe the FSF archives available both onsite and online, and how they can be accessed.

Discussion will follow; light refreshments will be served.

The event is sponsored by Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities/Finnish American Cultural Activities, Fulbright Finland Foundation, and the Government of Finland/David and Nancy Speer Visiting Professorship in Finnish Studies.

Watch for registration information in the October *Uutiset*.



## Naming of our Merged Organization!

Mirja Hanson

The search for a new name has been the first big step in merging the Finnish American Cultural Activities (FACA) and Finlandia Foundation Twin Cities (FFTC). Here is what has happened so far:

**MAY 2024:** The Transition Board identified the mission and purposes of the new organization (shown below). In the FACA Town Hall May 17, 2024, members launched the naming process in table discussion groups. They identified key values and felt that the name needs to honor diverse connections/relationships to Finland; use inclusive vs. elitist wording for “group;” clarify the service geography; consider the name’s sound, flow, abbreviation or searchability; etc. They also brainstormed a list of names for consideration.

**JUNE 2024:** The Transition Board reviewed and discussed the Town Hall input, and each board member nominated three preferred names. After voting, the following candidate names were identified:

- Finnish American Organization of the Twin Cities
- Finnish American Association—Twin Cities (or “of the”)
- Finland America Association of MN
- Finland Association in the Twin Cities
- Finland America Association—Twin Cities
- Twin Cities Finns
- Twin Cities Finnish American Association
- Finnish Cultural Association

**AUGUST 2024:** FACA and FFTC members received a survey inviting them to review the candidate names, choose two top names and share reasons for their choices by August 23, 2024. They were asked, “Which candidate names resonate with you? Which names best convey the mission and purposes of the merged organization?”

**FALL 2024:** To complete the process, the Transition Board will carefully review members’ preferences and their reasoning for the choices. After careful discussion and vetting, they will determine the new name and share it with FACA and FFTC members later in the season. Stay tuned!

**A hearty *kiitos*** to all participants in the Town Hall, survey and all other steps of the process!!!

### MISSION:

**We seek to elevate the visibility of contemporary Finland and celebrate our Finnish culture, heritage, and life in Minnesota, through the following purposes and roles:**

- **PROGRAMMING:** Develop, sponsor or collaborate with other organizations to offer educational, social, recreational and cultural programs and activities for the members, Twin Cities Finnish/Finnish American community and the general public of all generations.
- **COMMUNICATION:** Develop and maintain communication and information services to members and community about Finland-related activities, resources and opportunities in the Twin Cities and Minnesota.
- **EDUCATION:** Support students in pursuit of studies and opportunities related to Finnish language, culture and other topics.
- **FFN PARTNERSHIP:** Serve the Twin Cities community as an independent, self-governing affiliate of the Finlandia Foundation National (FFN) network with tangible and intangible benefits derived from the strength and common purpose of a mature, well-endowed, nationwide organization with affiliated organizations across the country.
- **ORGANIZATION:** Develop an operational structure and resources to sustain a vibrant organization that is open to engagement by members and interested stakeholders.



## I Went to FinnFest 2024

By Ruth Erkkila

I saw several FACA members walking around the DECC (Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center) during FinnFest 2024, July 24–28. It was hard to choose which events to go to; there were so many. The program book was 50 pages. There were lectures, Finnish language classes, dance performances, musical performances, walks along the lake and art shows. I went for one day, Friday. My first stop after registration was the *Tori*. The *Tori* was in Pioneer Hall and was a nice big space for the shops, a stage and then tables in front of the stage. I took up residence at one of the tables with a group of friends. Tina Watts and Susan Harstad were leading a sing-along of Salolampi songs, that is, songs that Salolampi campers learn during the stay. So for almost an hour we pretended we were campers and enthusiastically sang along from the song sheets provided as Tina and Susan played their guitars and led the singing.

Lunch was provided by the DECC and today it was meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy with lingonberry sauce. There were side dishes of fruit and rice pudding, and then *pulla* with butter for dessert. It was all good. I especially liked the gravy; it was very flavorful and gravy is not usually one of my favorites.

After lunch our local Kisarit Dancers showed us a selection of Finnish folk dances, accompanied by Lau Lu Aika musicians. They went on to perform several more times and led a dance workshop teaching some simple folk dances and couples' dances to live music. In the session "Who's Taking *Sauna*," Annaliisa Kovanen, a cardiovascular and intensive care nurse told us about her experiences with *sauna*. *Sauna* is for everyone; it's a sacred space; a place to share a connection with family and friends. Annaliisa had her first date with her partner in a *sauna*. Studies have shown that *sauna* use reduces the risk of cardiac arrest and soothes the body and mind.

The Keynote Address was given by Pekka Haavisto, a Finnish politician and member of the Green League. He said the Finnish people are closely following the US presidential elections. Haavisto has been elected to the Finnish Parliament many times, run for president three times and worked for the United Nations on various tasks and was a special representative of the European Union in Sudan, participating in the Darfur peace talks. On May 17, 2022, Haavisto signed Finland's application to join NATO and Finland became a NATO member on April 4, 2023. This was after and prompted by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Haavisto visited Kyiv and said that Finland condemns Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine. He said Finland is trying to become a member of the United Nations Security Council. There were many more interesting talks, performances and events to attend, but one's time and stamina can run out. FinnFest will be in Duluth for three more years. So, we will get another chance at choosing the most interesting sessions.

## Fun at FinnFest



## **A multilingual army of immigrants helped build the Iron Range. How did they communicate in the mines?**

*Excerpt from article by Christa Lawler, Star Tribune, June 28, 2024*

SOUDAN, MINN.—The deep mining pits cut into Minnesota's Iron Range reflect the area's long history as one of the country's most important sources of iron ore. And many of the men who reshaped this landscape in the early 20th century had just arrived in America.

Immigrants from dozens of countries were lured to northern Minnesota in the late 1800s to work in the newly established iron mines, where there were plenty of jobs for strong laborers—no experience required. They came from Finland, Croatia, Ireland, Italy and beyond, clustering in neighborhoods alongside others from their homeland.

There was a hierarchy among the workers based on where they were born. Though the majority of the miners were from Finland, American-born and Cornish workers had the top status and preferable supervisory positions, according to the historical society. The lower-level roles went to southern and eastern Europeans.

The Oliver Mining Co. employed more than 10,100 people in 1907, according to Marvin Lamppa's robust history book "Minnesota Iron Country: Rich Ore, Rich Lives." Fewer than 300 of them were fluent in English.

"All had one thing in common," he wrote. "They were willing to work and work hard."

"Orders and directions were not always understood," Lamppa wrote. "Miners wandered into unsafe areas. There were premature blasts. Men got in the way of moving ore cars. They were caught in machinery. There were falls. Sides of pits gave way. There were cave-ins. There were deaths—lots of them."

Finnish immigrant Matti Hallila Peltö worked in an underground mine in Gilbert, Minn. in the early 1900s and journalled about his experiences. His writings were translated and published in the book "Ready to Descend."

Peltö memorized new words and phrases, spelling them out phonetically in his head: "horiup" was "hurry up," for instance, and "vastu mare" was "what's the matter?"

The immigrant miners came to this part of the country to make things better for the generations that followed, Petersen, a guide at the Soudan underground, mine said.

"In the United States today, we like telling the positive side of the story: hard work, unity," Petersen said. "But we can't forget the struggle these guys went through."

## **Uutiset News—September 2024**

### **News from Finlandia Foundation National**

Information about the items below can be found at [FinlandiaFoundation.org](http://FinlandiaFoundation.org).

#### **\*\* Performer of the Year 2025 (POY)**

Are you a performer or do you know someone who can travel to FFN chapters to present an entertaining program that relates to Finnish and Finnish American culture? The POY application deadline is October 1.

**\*\* Lecturer of the Year 2025 (LOY)** presents programs that share the history and culture of Finland and Finnish America with audiences across the U.S. The LOY application deadline is October 1.

#### **\*\* P.J.C. Lindfors Legal Studies Scholarship**

U.S. law students studying in Finland and Finnish law students studying in the U.S. can apply for a scholarship or \$1,000–3,000. Applications are due October 1 or February 1.

**\*\*Call for Art:** Friends of Finland Juried Exhibition of contemporary, folk, and traditional arts and crafts, at the Finlandia Art Gallery, Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock, Michigan. Exhibit dates are November 21, 2024—January 28, 2025. The deadline for entry forms is October 1, with notification on October 21, and delivery of artwork to the gallery by November 12.

**"Young at Art"**—Special consideration will be given to art submitted by artists 25 years or younger, with a jurors' choice \$250 award.

#### **\*\*Poster Competition for National Sauna Week, February 16–22**

February may be months away, but your opportunity to design the official poster for 2025 is growing short. A poster will be chosen to promote the authentic Finnish sauna and events surrounding the fourth annual celebration. The competition is open to those 18 and older who reside in the U.S. The deadline for entry is October 1, 2024.

#### **New release on Finnposium—the FFN YouTube Channel, Tuesday, September 24**

Finnish American Migration 101: Finnish American Heritage Center Archives and the Migration Institute in Finland.

Conversational Finnish Class  
**Summer break until September 10**  
Participation via FACA Zoom Meeting  
For more information, please call  
Urho Rahkola at 651-429-3319



## Calendar and Preview of 2024–2025 Programs and Events

### September

- **September 7 (Saturday), Nordic Fest**—Lions Park Victoria, 10–5 p.m., dance 5:30–8 p.m.; 15th annual festival of music, dance, culture, food and traditions from Norway, Sweden, Iceland, Finland and Denmark.
- **September 14 (Saturday), Finn Fun Day**—Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis, MN, 55406; noon–3 p.m. Kick-start your fall before activities, events, and Finnish language classes by joining us for a day of food, music, games and activities.

### October

- **Young Professionals Event**—First week of October; stay tuned for more details.
- **October 30 (Wednesday)—Lotta Leiwo, Doctoral researcher, University of Helsinki** will present “From *Toveritar* to Today: Exploring Weather Narratives in Finnish-American History;” 311 Andersen Library, U of M, 222-21st Ave. South, Minneapolis; 5:30–8 p.m.

### November

- **November 15 (Friday)—Sara Pajunen, Danish American Center, 3030 W. River Pkwy., Minneapolis MN, 6:30–8:30 p.m.** Trained as a violinist and employing locally-responsive media ranging from field recordings to drone imagery, Pajunen’s varied artistic work is motivated by interactions between her ancestral roots, American cultural histories, and connection to our environments through sound.

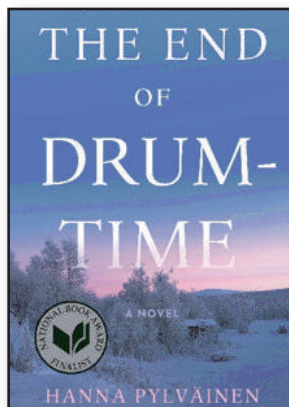
### December

- **December 7 (Saturday)—Kauneimmat Joululaulut**, St. Michael’s Church, Roseville, MN, 2 p.m.; coffee 3:15–5 p.m.

### 2024 Pop-Ups—Watch for announcements

- Knitting—Knit along—led by David Fillman
- Tell your story
- Finnish Paper Stars—Sarah Stengle
- Book Club—The End of Drum-Time by Hanna Pylväinen. Discussion with author via Zoom.

**2025—Will be posted in November Uutiset.**



## Fall Book Club— “The End of Drum-Time”

**Zoom in November/December**

*Please RSVP to Louise if you are interested in being part of the book club.*

Hanna Pylväinen is the 2024 Finlandia Foundation National Lecturer of the Year (LOY). Pylväinen is an author whose book *The End of Drum-Time* was a finalist for the 2023 National Book Award for fiction.

The following is the review from *Good Reads*.

“An epic love story in the vein of *Cold Mountain* and *The Great Circle*, about a young reindeer herder and a minister’s daughter in the nineteenth century Arctic Circle.

“In 1851, at a remote village in the Scandinavian tundra, a Lutheran minister known as Mad Lasse tries in vain to convert the native Sámi reindeer herders to his faith. But when one of the most respected herders has a dramatic awakening and dedicates his life to the church, his impetuous son, Ivvár, is left to guard their diminishing herd alone. By chance, he meets Mad Lasse’s daughter Willa, and their blossoming infatuation grows into something that ultimately crosses borders—of cultures, of beliefs, and of political divides—as Willa follows the herders on their arduous annual migration north to the sea.

“Gorgeously written and sweeping in scope, Hanna Pylväinen’s *The End of Drum-Time* immerses readers in a world lit by the northern lights, steeped in age-old rituals, and guided by passions that transcend place and time.”

## FACA Membership

A one-year membership for \$25 provides you with 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](http://www.finnfaca.org)**

## Honorary Consul Elaine Kumpula Update

### Honorary Consul Update—August 2024

*By Elaine Kumpula*

FinnFest 2024 in Duluth was a wonderful event, loaded with an amazing program that had something for everyone. Team FinnFest, the FinnFest USA Board and the volunteers made this year one to be remembered. As someone ever interested in geo-political issues, international business, art and food, my personal highlights included—in no particular order: (1) former Finnish Foreign Minister and Member of Finland's Parliament, Pekka Haavisto's keynote address on Finland's Role in a Changing World; (2) the Finland/Russia panel addressing the current issues between these countries moderated by Tanna Moore of Global Minnesota with panelists: Tom Hanson, UMD's Diplomat in Residence and former U.S. Foreign Service Officer; Ambassador Jarmo Sareva of Finland's New York Consulate General; and Jarno Limnell, a Member of Finland's Parliament as well as a military/cyber security expert; (3) the Finland and the US: Trade and Economy panel that I had the privilege of

co-moderating with Steve Riedel of Global Minnesota, along with panelists Jarmo Sareva, Luke Gaalswyk of Ever-Green Energy, Kate Olinger of Uponor, and Peter MacKeith Dean of the University of Arkansas' Architecture and Design School (and an honorary consul of Finland!); (4) Finnish journalist Rauli Virtanen's presentation that took us with him from Vietnam to Ukraine and to points in-between (as well as his amazing photo exhibit); (5) Artist Arno Rafael Minkinen's talk about his feature film in development and his incredible photography; (6) coffee, Finnish food and chocolate; (7) the *tori* and food area with music, dancing and so many activities; (8) sitting in Ponsse's forest harvesting machine and virtually driving it; and (9) meeting new friends and reconnecting with so many long-standing and much-loved friends and family. There were so many other great moments!

What were your favorites at FinnFest this year? I can't wait to see what is next for FinnFest 2025. I hope to see all of you there!