
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 10, Number 1

NEWSLETTER

February/Tammikuu 2006

Finn Funn Weekend 2005

by Jeanne Pakkala Frandsen

On November 3, 2005, ten members of the Finger Lakes Finns left by chartered bus to attend the Finn Funn Weekend, which was being held in Worcester, Massachusetts from November 4-6, 2005. Four other members traveled to the same destination by car. Worcester is located in central Massachusetts, and is known as the "heart of the Commonwealth." Worcester was established as a town on June 14, 1722, chosen the shire town or county seat of Worcester County in 1731, and incorporated as a city on February 29, 1848. The population of Worcester, from the 2000 census, was 172,648.

We ten had dinner together that evening at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Joining us was a lady from Ketchikan, Alaska, who told us about her home there. After a good night's rest, on Friday we were taken by bus to Boston. We toured the city in a trolley car. I noticed a small old building with a corrugated tin roof and a sign that said "Wholesale and Retail Lobster," right in the middle of the city. We rode by many sights, some of which were the Bunker Hill Monument, Charlestown Naval Yard where we saw The Constitution (Old Ironsides), Paul Revere Park, Faneuil Hall, Boston Commons and Public Gardens, and many more interesting places. Our trolley car driver/tour guide kept up a stream of information on the whole tour. After the tour we were hosted to an "Italian Feast" at Maggiano's Restaurant, which everyone enjoyed very much. Then we went on to the breathtaking views from the Skywalk Observatory at the top of the Prudential Tower. You could see for miles, and I particularly enjoyed seeing the row houses in the old part of the city, which originally were occupied by the "elite", but eventually were occupied by regular folks as the "elite" moved out to Back Bay.

Other people went on a tour to Old Sturbridge Village where people demonstrated what it was like to live nearly 200 years ago. There are shops stocked with lots of attractive, reasonably priced items, plus a bookstore, bakery, and coffee shop. They dined at the historic Public House Restaurant.

Jack Smiley, from the Connecticut group, hosted Friday night's banquet and he was full of good jokes. Bert Stromholm and Brent Buswell provided the music and the food was excellent.

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A Word from Our President

Richard Ahola

The Finger Lakes Finns once again decorated a Christmas tree at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton, New York. Exhibits from 22 other countries made up the Home For the Holidays Exhibit. This year's exhibit began with a special opening reception on November 17 and closed on December 31. The exhibit was visited by members of the Finger Lakes Finns, along with many other people from the nearby New York and Pennsylvania area.

Eeva Krusius and Kaisa Grohn have decorated the "Finnish Christmas tree" for many years. However, Eeva will not participate next year. Shirley Barton and Joann Neal have volunteered to take on this important tradition.

FinnFest USA 2006 awarded Toini Kaartinen of Spencer 3rd place in the poster design competition. Toini's poster depicted a tug of war between two boys trying to pull a dog into a sauna. Other winners were from Minnesota and Oregon. Congratulations, Toini, for the well deserved national recognition.

The Finger Lakes Finns applications for charter by the Board of Regents is scheduled for action at the Board's meeting in March. The expected positive vote by the Board of Regents will allow our organization to ask the IRS for 501(c)3 tax exempt status and enable affiliation with the Finlandia Foundation.

At the November meeting of the Finger Lakes Finns I was authorized to attend the Van Etten Village Board meeting to propose that the Finn Hall be renovated if possible. Jim Frandsen, a professional engineer, volunteered to assess the



Paul Laven photo

condition of the historic building. Permission to view the interior of the building was denied. They are considering new village offices, which could include meeting and storage space for the Finger Lakes Finns including a permanent display.

On a related note, the Newfield Fire Hall is to be enlarged and will remain available for our meeting.



Richard Koski Honored

By *Jeanne Pakkala Frandsen*

At the Christmas meeting of the Finger Lakes Finns, held on December 18, 2005, Richard Koski was honored for his selection by the Finlandia Foundation as Performer of the Year for 2005. Richard has traveled the United States playing his one and two-row button accordions and harmonica, performing concerts in Denver, Philadelphia, Marquette, Seattle, Berkeley, San Francisco, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, and Los Angeles.

We are especially proud of Richard, and honored him with a plaque, which had his picture and was engraved with his name and information detailing his participation as the Finlandia Foundation's Performer of the Year.

Congratulations again, Richard; and thanks for putting the Finger Lakes Finns on the map!



Benefits of Affiliation With Finlandia Foundation National

1. Each Chapter of Finlandia Foundation is an independent, self-governing entity, solely responsible to its membership and the local community for its affairs. There is no interference or involvement by the Finlandia Foundation National organization in the day-to-day activities and affairs of Finlandia Foundation Chapters.

2. A Chapter may request Finlandia Foundation National grants for local cultural programs. A Chapter may also support scholarship applications submitted by qualified local applicants.

3. Finlandia Foundation National "seed money" and funding assistance is available to Chapters in support of local Chapter programs and educational/cultural events open to the public. Chapter request approval is based on the amount requested, the quality of the program, available funds, and expected benefits and resulting visibility for the Chapter and the Foundation.

4. Each year Chapters may take advantage of Finlandia Foundation National's travel funding for a Performer of the Year by inviting an interesting and entertaining artist to perform at a local Chapter event.

5. Members of a Chapter will receive Finlandia Foundation National Newsletters annually. Chapters are encouraged to provide materials and news items to be included in the Newsletter.

6. Chapters are encouraged to link their own web sites to the www.finlandiafoundation.org site. Chapters are permitted to use the Finlandia Foundation name and logo in their membership materials and other activities for as long as they remain members of the National organization.

7. Chapters are kept informed of planned programs and events. Should a given program or event sponsored by another Chapter be of interest, funding will from time-to-time be available to support the transfer and replication of the program locally.

8. Other tangible and intangible benefits can be derived from the strength and common purpose of a well-endowed, nationwide organization, in the areas of communications, mutual support and cooperation with other organizations. The new national office is also available as a resource for Black Ties and Miners' Boots, the 2003 Sibelius video, programs for pay, information and more. A Finlandia Foundation Chapter can expect to be better informed of Finnish cultural trends and programs than a local organization without national and international ties. The \$50,000 - \$100,000 which Finlandia Foundation National awards each year in the form of scholarships, grants and Chapter support reflects favorably on all Finlandia Foundation Chapters.

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On Saturday, the Tori was open, and there were many activities we could take part in. Some of us went to the slide show by Anita Smiley called "Finland, Then and Now: 50 Years of Change" which was very interesting. We learned about "Runeberg, More Than a Poet" and "Finns and Americans in Conversation" at which the leader showed the Morley Safer interview done on "60 Minutes" a few years ago about the so-called glum Finns. The film "Sibelius" was shown, in Finnish with English sub-titles. We enjoyed this too, although Hemmo was disappointed because in Finland, the general public knew only the best things about Sibelius, and the movie outlined his whole life, good and bad.

Jack Smiley again hosted Saturday's banquet, with music by Bert and Brent, and a group called Hölmöläiset (The Simple Folk). A soprano named Karen Minkinen Page also entertained both Friday and Saturday evenings. The whole evening was very enjoyable.

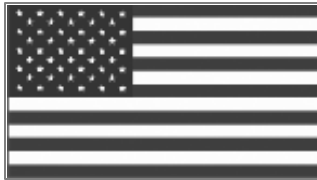
We left for home on Sunday morning and had a good trip back. We had wonderful sunny weather the whole time we were in Massachusetts. According to information given at this Finn Funn, the next one will be held in Maine, so watch for your information envelope and make plans to attend next year!



Donations to Finger Lakes Finns in 2005:

Scholarship Fund: Judith B. Maxwell, Harvey Paige, Leslie and Elaine Hill, Jean King, Newfield Rotary, Newfield Masonic Lodge, Anonymous. In memory of Ray Matta from Jeff Matta, Sylvia Maatta, Gayle Greuber and family, Eva Poysa, Barbara Louko Twombly. In memory of Anneli Heila from Ruth Kahn, Eva Poysa, Toini Kaartinen, Brenda Koskinen, Jean Lindblad, Phyllis Koskela, Saga and Vinay Ambegoakar, Barbara Louko Twombly, The Finnish Ladies Card Club (Dolores Babcock, Eleanor and Bill Button, Jeanne Frandsen, Helen Luoma Hess, Pat [Hess] and Ted Stevenson, Patty and Hemmo Huttunen, Marilyn and Gary Kemp, Laura and Stan Koskinen, Ruth Luoma Makie, Violet Paige, Maiju and Jukka Paljarvi, Rodney and Helen Sunderlin).

The following names were omitted from the list printed last February: for the 2003 Scholarship Fund: Anonymous; for the 2004 Scholarship Fund: Judith B. Maxwell, Anonymous.



Finger Lakes Finns Officers

President: Richard Ahola

Co-Vice Presidents: Lisa Koski, Susan Pakkala

Co-Treasurers: Tim and Kathi Latson

Secretary: Shirley Barton

Membership and Change of Address Coupon

Join ___ | Change Address ___ | Renew ___

Name _____

Old _____

Address _____

New _____

Address _____

E-mail: _____

To join Finger Lakes Finns, please send \$5 per person, **payable to Finger Lakes Finns**, c/o the

Membership Chair:

Jeanne Frandsen

502 Donalds Dr.

Ithaca, NY 14850

Please send address changes to the same address.

Dear Finger Lakes Finns,

by Helvi Vaananen

Just a little sunny and warm Florida greeting to you all dear friends there in the northern states. How happy we all are to have Jean and Dick with us here to stay part of the winter months. The past year's visits here have always been just too short. Now we share and take part in all the many activities this area offers to all.



The Lindblads have been here at the Point Overlook just short of two weeks and we have already had the pleasure of Jean's presentation of the Finger Lakes Finns Tour of Finland this coming summer. The Point Overlook clubhouse was filled to capacity to hear and see her program while dressed in a beautiful Sortavala kansallis puku that was formally worn by my mother, myself, and now a third generation, Jean. She looked ever so adorable and did a great presentation.



Also, for part of the program we had a "show and tell" table of Finnish articles by Harriet Kellokoski. She showed and talked about many Finland knives and other items from Finland. Harriet and Jouni Kellokoski are owners of Kellam Knives Co., a beautiful gift shop in Lantana.

Who's Howling?

Yowling
Or is it growling?
On a cold moonlit night
All animals out of sight.
The piercing howls
Of a group, or
Troop of travelers,
Wolves? No!
This pitch, not that low,
Dogs? Not a real bark.
Hark! Listen.
Communicating coyotes.

Lisa dC-Koski

Calendar of Coming Events

February 6: Due date for \$200 deposit per person for Finger Lakes Finns Tour of Finland (July 9-20, 2006). For information contact Jean Lindblad at 607-229-3012 or e-mail jelindbl@twcny.rr.com

February 19, Sunday, 1 p.m., Newfield Fire Hall: FLF monthly meeting, dish to pass lunch, and program (quiz show with prizes)

March 12, Sunday, 4-6 p.m.: Koski's old time Finnish band at the Rongovian Embassy on Main Street in Trumansburg playing for listening and dancing. Free admission. Phone 387-4854 for information.

March 19, Sunday, 1 p.m., Newfield Fire Hall: FLF monthly meeting, dish to pass lunch, and program.

April 15: Submissions for May newsletter due.

April 9, Sunday 1 p.m., Newfield Fire Hall: FLF monthly meeting, dish to pass lunch, and program. [Please note this exception: on the second Sunday!]

Mission and Membership

Membership in Finger Lakes Finns is open to anyone of Finnish origin or with an interest in Finnish culture. Dues are \$5 per person per calendar year. Payment may be made at any time during the year, but only covers membership for the remainder of that calendar year.

Help us provide information and activities for Finns and Finn friends to enjoy. Although you do not need to be a member to attend our meetings and activities, your dues entitle you to continue receiving this newsletter and to vote on all FLF business at our meetings.

Please mail your check or money order, payable to Finger Lakes Finns, to: Jeanne Frandsen, 502 Donald's Dr., Ithaca, NY 14850. You may wish to use the form on page three. Thank you for your support.

The Finger Lakes Finns web site, may be found at www.FingerLakesFinns.org

The Newsletter is produced four times each year. We welcome contributions sent to: FLF Newsletter, c/o Jim Loomis, 19 Upper Clark Ave., Van Etten, NY 14889 or Email loomis@htva.net

The Editorial committee is Jim Loomis, Richard Koski, and Richard Ahola.

Finger Lakes Finns Newsletter
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Van Etten, NY 14889