
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 10, Number 3

NEWSLETTER

August/elokuu 2006

Finnish Festival in Spencer

By Richard Koski

The Finger Lakes Finns will hold their Fall Festival on Sunday, **September 17** from 2-5 pm in the Spencer Middle School cafeteria located on Center Street in Spencer. This will be a special festival this year as it will be held in conjunction with Spencer's bicentennial celebration. Each month of this year has featured some aspect of Spencer's 200 year history. In recognition of the large role that the Finns have played in the history and culture of Spencer, they will be featured in September.

Planning is underway so that our usual Fall Festival will be especially designed to display to the whole community something of our own part in Spencer's rich history. Richard Ahola will speak about the Spencer Co-op and the Finnish Hall and Jeanne Frandsen will speak about the Spencer Lutheran Church. Displays of costumes, posters, art, photos, and artifacts will be set up all around the cafeteria. We would welcome any items that you would like to display. Music will be provided by Richard Koski and friends and, tentatively, the Washburn family. Of course we will have coffee and pulla. If you would like to bring anything for the coffee table, it would be greatly appreciated as we expect a good turnout from not only the Finns, but the general public. Some lucky people will be the winners of the many raffle prizes offered, and one very lucky person will have his or her ticket drawn as the winner of the Finger Lakes Finns' quilt (Please see page 3, Quilt Raffle Tickets).

At our August 20 meeting at the Newfield Fire Hall, we will do some more planning for the Finnish Festival in Spencer. Although we will have our usual dish to pass dinner and business

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The Puustjärvis of Kuusamo

By Helen Olson

Just before our Juhannus celebration in June, I received this email message from my friends, Veikko and Margit Puustjärvi of Kuusamo, Finland. "We hope that your midsummer weather will be fine and that you yourself are feeling fine and healthy, too. If you go to the Huttunen's please convey our greetings to everybody present. Let us hope that the weather will allow you to stay out of doors. We will be having a sunny Midsummer Eve, but this year the mosquitos are a problem. In our yard in the midst of pine forest you just can't stay any longer time out of doors without using repellents."

About 20 years ago or so my son, Lloyd, was looking for some kind of interesting summer job, and he found one in Kuusamo, Finland, with the Puustjärvis. Lloyd spent the summer helping with chores and speaking American English, as opposed to the British English often taught in Finnish schools and deplored by the relatives in the U.S.

Lloyd was with the Puustjärvis for six weeks, but during that time, in addition to doing some chores around the house, they went to Vaasa to visit my relatives and then farther down near Helsinki for Veikko's relatives, and then to Helsinki to visit my cousin, Marianne, and then to the airport to come home.



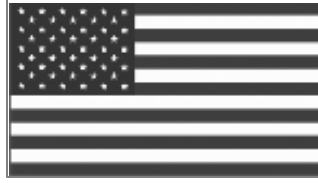
Veikko



Margit

We have visited them on our trips to Finland, and they have been here to Groton and to my home in Valley Stream, Long Island.

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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.

A Word from Our President

Richard Ahola

On June 20, 2006 the NYS Board of Regents granted a permanent Certificate of Incorporation to the Finger Lakes Finns. The Corporation is a non-stock Corporation organized and operated exclusively for educational purposes as defined in Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. The purpose of the Corporation is to promote the history and culture of Finnish-Americans and to bring the people interested in Finnish-Americans together in meetings, programs, and events. The Corporation is authorized by the Board of Regents to sponsor exhibits and to issue publications in any format.

I have begun the next step in obtaining 501(c)3 Tax Exempt status from the IRS and will apply to the NYS Tax Department for recognition as a Tax Exempt Organization.

In May I attended a Finlandia Foundation All Chapter meeting in Seattle and Poulsbo, Washington. It was the first such meeting in the 53 years of the Finlandia Foundation existence and included representatives of 28 chapters, the Finnish Embassy, Salolampi, and the organizers of Finn Fest. In addition to business meetings, Janet and I attended a concert of the Los Angeles Philharmonic followed by a reception for Conductor and Foundation Patron Esa-Pekka Salonen. We toured the Northwest College of Art and the Nordic Heritage Museum. At the college we heard about FFN efforts to bring about collaboration with the Sibelius Academy, possibly using a site in New Mexico. Highlights of the daily meeting included a presentation entitled "Fire and Ice" by Lecturer of the Year Ben Strout and information about grants and scholarships. In the words of FFN President John Laine, the Seattle meeting was most exciting.

Finger Lakes Finns events in June and July included Juhannus hosted by Hemmo and Patty Huttunen and a concert by Toivo and the Sillanpää Family. Special thanks go to Hemmo, Patty, and Richard, Lisa, and Sarah Koski, and to all the volunteers who made both events memorable. Additional thanks go to the Town of Newfield and Tompkins County for supporting our application for funding the concert. Last, but not least, thanks to the Newfield Fire Hall for a great facility for our monthly meetings.

Congratulations go out to Colonel Bill Mackie for being selected Civilian of the Year by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Picture below).



Poetry Corner

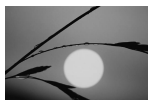
The Prowler

Comes toward the house
Cautiously
Looking left and right
Pausing in the twilight
Staying low
Moving slowly, half hidden
Using shrubbery for cover
Stopping at the porch stairs
Ever so quietly
Glancing up.
Slowly ascending the stairs
Where, he begins
Lapping up milk in a bowl
Rapidly!
Then continued lunching,
Munching and crunching in bowl two.
Finally the prowler
Silently slips into the twilight.

Lisa H. dC Koski

**the humble servant
brews bitter potions
sweetened by humility**

Leona M. House



(Festival, continued from page 1)

meeting at Newfield, we will have neither at the Spencer festival. For more information on the Finnish Festival in Spencer, contact Patty Huttunen at 589 6620.

Quilt Raffle Tickets

The quilt raffle tickets will be available at our meetings and several area venues, including the Spencer Picnic, August 19.

If you live outside of the area, and wish to purchase tickets, you may order them from Shirley Barton. If you want to purchase tickets, the price is \$1 each, 6 for \$5, and 15 for \$10. If you would like tickets to sell, Shirley will send you some, and you can send her the money when you sell them.

Contact Shirley by phone at (607) 387 9224, Email: sebarton@cpinternet.com, or by regular mail: Shirley Barton, PO Box 184, Mecklenburg, NY 14863.

(Puustjärvis, continued from page 1)

Of course on their last visit, three years ago, I suggested we all go to the Finger Lakes Finns meeting. Veikko was extremely interested in learning how people's lives changed when they became Americans. Much to his delight, he found that although all were staunch American citizens, they were still Finns at heart.

He had a grand time conversing with everyone in Finnish and in English, and several people spoke Finnish to Margit to make her feel more comfortable. Veikko is an English teacher so is extremely fluent, but English is always a big struggle for Margit. We were the last ones to leave the meeting! Then the Huttunens invited us there for coffee and cake. Hemmo took them for a tractor ride around his property. They also got to see the sauna and just where we celebrate Juhannus.

Veikko checks our website [FingerLakesFinns.org] and keeps up with what is going on. He even checks the Ithaca weather report so he can know what our weather is like and always sends his best wishes to all. I fill in other details for them. That is why he wanted to wish us all a happy midsummer and I thought I should let everyone know.

Calendar of Coming Events

August 19: Saturday afternoon: Visit the Finger Lakes Finns' table at the Spencer Picnic. Quilt raffle ticket sales and Finnish music by Richard Koski.

August 20: Sunday, 1pm - Finger Lakes Finns meeting at the Newfield Fire Hall. Dish to pass luncheon, business meeting and program.

August 30: Wednesday, 6:30 - 9:30 pm - Toivo plays Finnish and Tex-Mex music at the Pourhouse on Main Street in Trumansburg.

September 17: Sunday, 2-5pm - Finnish Festival at the Spencer - Van Etten Middle School Cafeteria, Center Street, Spencer.

October 15: Sunday, 1pm - Finger Lakes Finns meeting at the Newfield Fire Hall. Dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, annual election of officers and program.



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.

For membership or donations, please use the form in this issue or at www.FingerLakesFinns.org. Mail your check or money order, payable to Finger Lakes Finns, c/o **Jeanne Frandsen, 502 Donald's Drive, Ithaca NY 14850**, or you may use a credit card at our web site. Thank you for your support.

The Newsletter is produced four times each year. We welcome members to contribute content 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