
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 10, Number 4

NEWSLETTER

November/marraskuu 2006

Fall Festival at the Spencer Bicentennial

By Jeanne Pakkala Frandsen

On September 17, 2006, a beautiful Sunday afternoon at the Middle School in Spencer, New York, the Finger Lakes Finns held a mini-Finn Fest in conjunction with Spencer's Bicentennial Celebration, which has been ongoing throughout the year.

There was a beautiful coffee table set with all kinds of wonderful baked goods for everyone's enjoyment. Tables were set up for people to sit and enjoy their coffee and visit with their friends and neighbors.

On the walls as you entered the room were many Finnish costumes, some from Finland that had been owned by Raili Washburn, one of the original members of the Finger Lakes Finns, and many other beautifully crafted costumes made by Patty Huttunen, coordinator of the event. Many posters of scenes in Finland decorated the walls. These posters were mostly brought home by the Finger Lakes Finns on their many trips to Finland.



Many Finnish artifacts were displayed on several tables around the room. There was Finnish crystal and glassware, linens, rugs, pottery and other beautiful items owned by several members of the Finger Lakes Finns. Several members brought and showed pictures of their parents and grandparents and artifacts from their home life. There was a whole series of pictures of saunas in the area, borrowed from the Spencer Historical Society.

Richard Ahola, President of the Finger Lakes Finns, spoke on the Spencer Co-op and the Finn Hall in Van Etten, both influential in the formation of business and social life of the Finns in the area.



Jeanne Frandsen talked about the Finns and the Church in the Spencer - Van Etten - Newfield area, concentrating on the North Van Etten Church and St. Paul's Church in Spencer.

A raffle was held which was enjoyed by all. Several items of beautiful Iittala glassware were raffled off. The quilt raffle, which we have been working towards all year, was held and the winner of the quilt was Helky Frangella, formerly of Spencer and now of Coeymans, New York.

Wonderful Finnish music for listening and dancing was provided by Richard Koski on button accordion, his son Jason on mandolin, and Jim Reidy on guitar.



Finn Funn Weekend 2006

By Richard Ahola

A small contingent of Finger Lakes Finns attended a spectacular fall weekend in Maine. Janet and Richard Ahola, Helvi and Richard Impola, Helen Carini and daughter from Nassau, New York enjoyed New England and Finnish hospitality at the Samoset Resort in Rockport, Maine.

On Friday, the 13th of October, we had a choice of two lighthouse and museum tours including the Maine Lighthouse Museum and the Marshall Point Lighthouse. It needs to be noted that Samoset is within walking distance of the Rockland Harbor Breakwater Lighthouse.

On Saturday the photos of Kosti Ruohamaa, exhibits on blueberries and Finns, and programs on the contributions of Finns in boatbuilding, farming, architecture and granite quarrying were impressive.

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Social programs included music by Bert Stromholm, Harborside Harmony and the Frye Mountain Band. The Master of Ceremonies was Jack Smiley and the meeting was hosted by Ed Dodge, President of the Finn-Am Society of Mid-Coast Maine.

On Sunday morning we toured Finnish Heritage House and the Finnish Congregation Church at South Thomaston, Maine. The Finnish Heritage House is the center for Finnish-American heritage in Maine and is open every Saturday from March to December. Visit them at www.FinnishHouse.org

Services at the adjacent church are held every Sunday at 2 p.m. with fellowship after the service. A hymn and benediction in Finnish are part of the service.

Next year Finn Funn will be hosted by the Connecticut Chapter of the Finlandia Foundation at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott on the 2nd weekend in October 2007. Please join many members of the Finger Lakes Finns at the 15th Finn Funn Weekend.

Sixth Annual Scholarship Award

By *Virpi Loomis*

Each year the Finger Lakes Finns awards a \$500 scholarship to one or more deserving high school seniors of Finnish heritage in the Finger Lakes region. The sixth annual Finger Lakes Finns Scholarship was awarded in June to two outstanding students, Molly Oates of Watkins Glen, and Kevin Greuber of Odessa.

Molly Anne Oates is a 2006 graduate of Watkins Glen High School where she especially enjoyed studying foreign languages and taking part in a variety of sports and activities, both in school and community. Molly has begun her college career at Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland, where she will be majoring in Spanish and hopes to one day become a teacher. She is the daughter of Michael and Joan Lantela Oates of Watkins Glen and granddaughter of John Oiva Lantela, the first of her family to become a US citizen.



Kevin Greuber is a June graduate of Odessa-Montour High School where he took part in student government, music and theater. He has begun his college career at Elmira College where he will major in adolescent education with plans to teach high school global history. Kevin is the son of Jeffrey and Gayle

Maatta Greuber of Odessa and the grandson of Sylvia Uitos Maatta.

Winners of the award are selected on the basis of scholarship, participation in activities, and interest in Finnish heritage. The award is given after the successful completion of the first year as a full time student at an accredited institution of higher learning. Two of last year's winners, Amy Cole and Matthew Kemp, were able to join us at Juhannus festivities to receive their awards. Andrew Peckham was spending the summer in Boston and could not join us. Andrew has completed his first year at Boston University in good standing in the Bachelor of Arts program. Amy has successfully completed her first year in the Architectural Technology program at Alfred State College, and Matthew has finished his first year at Elmira College, with honors, where he is a business major. We are very proud of these young people and look forward to following their careers in the future.



Poetry Corner

Fall Botanicals

Goldenrod's brilliant stand of yellow

Sumac's red glow

Around old farmsteads,

Dry, crisp, and mellow-

Purple asters, 'mum's pastels,

Bachelor's blue buttons,

Cool fellow.

All, faithfully fulfilling

Our autumnal expectations

Of polychrome botanicals.

Trees join in with multicolor canopies

Soon to become

A muted color weave,

A nubby carpet of slowly downed leaves.

Lisa H. dC-Koski

A Word from Our President

Richard Ahola

On November 1 the important function of Treasurer will pass from Tim and Kathi Latson to Barbara Twombly. Thanks to Tim and Kathi for a job well done and congratulations to Barbara for, once again, volunteering for a difficult and often unappreciated service.

We will be challenged by our desire to perpetuate the Finnish-American Heritage, provide financial support for college educations, promote the Finnish language and customs, and to continue the bridge between New York's Finger Lakes Finns and would-be Finns anywhere.

Our thanks also go to Susan Pakkala for an incredible job as Vice President, for continued service to Finger Lakes Finns, and as a founding member of the Board of Trustees under the Board of Regents recent charter.

Vice President Lisa Koski and I invite membership input into the important program function. Any suggestions for future chapter programs should be shared with Lisa.

In deciding whether to continue with a third term as President I weighed three thoughts: Janet said it was my duty; I find the meetings invigorating and fulfilling; but, most important, I reflected on this past year's successes: a membership of 160; the Roberson Museum Christmas tree; the quilt project and three scholarships; Juhannus; a grant supported concert by Toivo and the Sillanpää Family and a 200th Anniversary Program for the Town of Spencer, attended by over 150 members of the public.

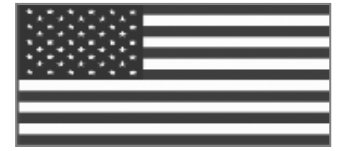
Special thanks go to Hemmo and Patty Huttunen for hosting Juhannus and for Patty's contribution to the September celebration supported by the Spencer Historical Society and our own Jean Alve, Spencer Historian.

The facts speak for the success of the July 8th Concert supported by Newfield Supervisor Charlie Berggren and Tompkins County. An audience of over 150 and thousands more by FM and Internet broadcast on WVBR's Changing Borders enjoyed the concert. Of the live audience, 71% were residents of Tompkins County and 58% were members of Finger Lakes Finns. Evaluations on a rating scale of 1 to 5, 5 being highest, resulted in an overall rating of 4.93.

In answer to "what kind of music would you like to hear at future concerts?" the typical response was: "good Finn music".

On a personal note, my favorite moments included recognition for the organization by the Board of Regents, our joining Finlandia Foundation, and the 2006 Finn Funn Weekend at the Samoset Resort in Maine.

In another article in this issue I will try to describe our experience at Finn Funn and give you important information about next year's meeting in Connecticut.



Finger Lakes Finns Officers

President: Richard Ahola

Co-Vice Presidents: Lisa Koski, Susan Pakkala

Treasurers: Barbara Twombly

Membership and Change of Address Coupon

Join ___ Donate ___ Change ___ |Renew ___

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail: _____

To join/renew Finger Lakes Finns membership, 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.

Please remember to renew your membership in Finger Lakes Finns for 2007. This will insure that you receive all four of the newsletters, beginning in February.

FINGER LAKES FINNS

2007 TOUR

June 26 – July 6

New York to Helsinki, Finland

\$2,975 (based on double occupancy)

(plus applicable airport taxes)

For more information contact: Jean Lindblad

Postal: 445 Main Street, Newfield, NY 14867

Phone: (607) 564-7907, (607) 229-3012 or
email jelindbl@twcny.rr.com

Visit our website for updates:

www.fingerlakesfinns.org

Calendar of Coming Events

Nov. 19 - Sunday 1 p.m. - FLF dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, and program. Newfield Fire Hall.

Nov. 29 - Wed. 7 p.m. - The Toivo band plays Finnish and Tex-Mex dance music at the Pourhouse on Main Street in Trumansburg.

Nov. 30 - Thurs. 7:30 - Toivo in concert at the Ulysses Library on Main Street in Trumansburg. Free and open to the public.

Dec. 17 - Sun. 1 p.m. - Monthly meeting, dish to pass, Pikku Joulu Christmas party, entertainment. Newfield Fire Hall.

Jan. 15 - Mon. - Deadline for submission of articles, poems, photos, and notices for the Feb. 2007 issue of the FLF newsletter. Send to Jim Loomis, editor, at Upper Clark Ave., Van Etten, NY 14889 or email: loomis@htva.net.

Jan. 21 - Sun. 1 p.m. - Monthly meeting, dish to pass, and program. Newfield Fire Hall.

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.

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Van Etten, NY 14889