
Finger Lakes Finns

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NEWSLETTER

May / toukokuu 2007

Finnish Handbell Choir Coming To Ithaca *by Jeanne Pakkala Frandsen*

A Finnish handbell choir called Handbell Ensemble Dolce will be touring the United States in June and will be making a stop at Trinity Lutheran Church in Ithaca, N.Y. They will arrive in the States on June 5 and will leave Ithaca on June 7. On June 6, at 7:00 p.m., the choir will present a concert at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 149 Honness Lane, in Ithaca.

Handbell Ensemble Dolce has operated in Kallavesi Lutheran Church in Kuopio, Finland since the fall of 1999 under the direction of church musician Seppo Kirkinen. There are 14 musicians ranging in age from 15 to 21 years old. It is currently not possible to study handbells in Finland, so Seppo Kirkinen has studied together with the young musicians of Dolce. Seppo has arranged small clinic and master courses and invited clinicians from Handbell Ensembles Sonos from the United States and Arsis from Estonia.

The main mission of Dolce has been to enrich worship and musical life in congregations in the Kuopio area. In addition, Dolce has performed elsewhere in Finland as well as in Sweden, Denmark, Italy, and Estonia. This is Dolce's first concert tour in the United States. American handbell soloist, Kathy Fink, is touring with Dolce, teaching and coaching our young ringers.

Dolce has published CD recordings in 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2006.

Handbells are still rare in Finland. In addition to Dolce in Kuopio, there are handbell ensembles in Vantaa (from 1990) and Rovaniemi (from 2002). In 1999, the Kuopio Kallavesi congregation purchased a three octave set of Malmark handbells - the first

set of Malmark bells in Finland. In 2002, Dolce purchased an additional fourth octave followed by the fifth octave in 2005. Dolce also has a four octave set of chimes.



Trinity Lutheran Church is sponsoring this group of young musicians. If there is anyone in close proximity to Ithaca who would like to house some of these youngsters or their director, wife and two children, please contact me at frandsen-jean@aol.com or telephone 607-256-5077. Members of Trinity will also be hosting some of these musicians. I am sure this will be a fine concert and hope everyone attends.

May 20 Finger Lakes Finns Meeting

At the May 20 Finger Lakes Finns meeting, Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen will speak on the topic "The Image of Finland among Finnish-Americans". Dr. Franklin-Rahkonen holds a PhD degree in Uralic and Atlantic Studies (Finnish History) from Indiana University, Bloomington with a dissertation titled "Jewish Identity in Finland". She specializes in Finnish, East Baltic and Russian History and Social Studies Education as an Assistant Professor in the History Department in Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She will be coming to our meeting with her husband Carl, who has made two presentations on Finnish music at our meetings, and with their two children.

Poetry Corner

Global Warming is Alarming

Polar bears need catapults to get from
floe to floe

Glaciers glide and melt

As former residents of the South move
north

Manhattan, New Jersey, and several
others

Contemplate submarine travels

Florida tourists will use glass bottom
boats

To spot their freeways

But in February and March as cold winds
blow

Smoke pours out the chimney flue

I wouldn't mind some global warming

Of a degree or two

For a week or two.

Lisa daCunha-Koski

One Big First Bird!

by Tim Hayes

On April 21st, 2007, the first day of the "Youth Turkey Hunting Season" in upstate New York, thirteen year old Corey Hayes and his father were out well before the crack of dawn in pursuit of one of these elusive birds.

After a very chilly morning hunt with little success, the pair decided to change tactics. Rather than hunting from within the portable blind they had been in, the two made the decision to become mobile themselves.



This move proved to be very wise. Corey, with the help of some calling from his father, was able to harvest this twenty-four pound gobbler with a 9 ½" beard. What an experience for both as this was the first time Corey had gone turkey hunting.

Corey is a 7th grade student at Newfield Middle School and is the son of Tim and Cindy Hayes. He is a grandson of FLF members, Jean and Richard Lindblad also of Newfield.

Juhannus 2007

by Patty Huttunen

Our Juhannus Midsummer's Eve celebration for this year will be on June 23rd and is in the planning stages. This will be our 10th annual Finnish tradition at Southview.

As in the past, please bring a large dish to share, tableware, and lawn chair. We will plan to eat at 5 p.m.

The sauna will be hot for those whose wish to partake. There will be the hay wagon ride around the farm, and swimming. The kokko (floating bonfire) will be lit and there will be a program of entertainment at 8 p.m.

Volunteers for program and helping with the food are requested.

Phone 589-6620 for information or to volunteer.



A Word from Our President

Richard Ahola



In March, I received the good news that Finger Lakes Finns qualified for exemption from the state sales and use tax. Persons buying supplies, materials and services for the Finger Lakes Finns must give an exempt purchase certificate to each vendor at the time of the organization's first purchase from that vendor. A separate certificate is not necessary for each subsequent purchase if the vendor enters Finger Lakes Finns' address and six digit number from the Exempt Purchase Certificate. Certificates will be available from the President and treasurer upon request.

Once again, we have received a grant from Tompkins County and the Town of Newfield for a concert, which will feature Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year, Maria Mannisto and Toivo, featuring our own POY Richard Koski. The concert will be held in September. Watch for details in our August newsletter. Special thanks go to Lisa Koski for preparing the grant application. Thanks also go to Shirley Barton.

John Laine, President of Finlandia Foundation, will be joining us for Juhannus. Mark your calendars for a great celebration hosted by Patty and Hemmo Huttunen at Southview Tree Farm.

In addition, please join us for our regular meeting on May 20 at the Newfield Firehall.

Regarding Sustainability

Lisa daCunha-Koski

In the last week of April, I attended a meeting in Trumansburg to hear Dr. Gay Nicholson speak about learning new ways to help sustainability on our planet with local initiatives. Some of the practical ideas were growing organic gardens without commercial fertilizers or pesticides, buying local fruits and vegetables instead of those shipped from all over the world, preserving fruits and vegetables by home canning, and cooperatively sharing produce and labor.

During the discussion that followed, I pointed out to the group that the Finnish farmers in our area had

been doing this over the past 100 years. The Finns cooperated on sharing work and farm equipment, and the Spencer Co-op Society was established in Spencer with a branch in Trumansburg as a means of cooperatively buying what the farm families needed and selling their farm products.

Let's hear it again for the Finns with fortitude and foresight, also known as *sisu*.



Finger Lakes Finns Officers

President: Richard Ahola

Vice President: Lisa Koski

Treasurer: Barbara Twombly

Secretary: Shirley Barton

Membership and Change of Address Coupon

Join ___ Donate ___ Change ___ | Renew ___

Name _____

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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.



Calendar of Coming Events

May 20, Sunday, 1pm: FLF luncheon, business meeting, and program. **Dr. Sharon Franklin Rahkonen** will speak on "The Image of Finland among Finnish-Americans." Newfield Fire Hall

May 29, Tuesday, 7-10 pm: The **Toivo** band plays at the Pourhouse on Main Street in Trumansburg. For info, see www.tburgpourhouse.com

June 6, Wednesday, 7 pm: The Finnish handbell choir, **Dolce**, will present a concert at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 149 Honness Lane, in Ithaca.

June 21, Thursday: The Main Street Cafe in Spencer, as part of their ethnic nights series, presents **dining in Finnish style**. Contact the Cafe for information at (607) 589 7400 or www.mainstreetcafe.net.

June 23, Saturday, 5pm: **Juhannus celebration** at Huttunen's Southview Farm, 630 South Danby Road, Spencer. Bring a dish to pass and a chair. There will be kokko, hayrides, sauna, swimming, and entertainment into the evening. Phone 589 6620 for information.

June and July: No regular FLF meetings. Summer vacation.

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 [Email loomis@htva.net]. The Editorial committee is Jim Loomis, Richard Koski, and Richard Ahola. **Submissions for the newsletter due are due on the 15th of the previous month.**

Finger Lakes Finns Newsletter
c/o Jim Loomis, Editor
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Van Etten, NY 14889