

Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 11, Number 3

NEWSLETTER

August / elokuu 2007

Main Street Café Holds Finnish Fest

by Kayla Baker

[This text of this article is reprinted with permission, first published by the Finger Lakes Community Newspapers, 6/27/07]

Finnish Fest '07 was a blast. The band was perfect, the food was delicious, and the rain held off just long enough to spare the diners on the patio.

The First Anniversary Dinner Buffet at the Main Street Café in Spencer was an all-around treat, and a real success.



Guest Chef Eeva Krusius

"It was our biggest day ever," said the café's owner, Catherine Boda-Keegan, "Thank God it didn't rain. I don't know what I would have done if it had rained."

Finnish Fest '07 had been in the works for over six months, a point made obvious by the complete and elaborate menu, among other finer details.

"Zach Jansky is our chef, but our guest chef, Eeva Krusius met with him many times to work out the menu, and then the cooking was done in our kitchen," said Boda-Keegan.

Except for the grave lox, which Boda-Keegan prepared herself, Jansky and Krusius put together everything on the menu, appropriately entitled "The Four Gastronomic Seasons of Finland".

The buffet table showcased everything from a cucumber salad called "kurkkusalatti" to hamburger a la Lindstrom, or "Lindstromin Pihvi", which calls for onions, beets, egg, and capers in some recipes.

In between the more exotic dishes, there were some familiar fruit salads, cheese, and a Christmas ham for those with somewhat less adventurous taste buds.

As the Trumansburg band Toivo played their authentic Finnish tunes, Katie, a waitress in traditional Finnish dress, toured the dining room and patio. Of course, this is the kind of production that the Spencer community has come to expect from the Main Street Café.



The band Toivo. Harley and Annie Campbell, Richard and Jason Koski, Jim Reidy

"I'm still dreaming about what this is going to be," said Boda-Keegan.

With its one-year anniversary celebration, the Main Street Café also celebrated one whole year of good luck, which has been continually pushed by the themed ethnic nights such as Danish night and those featuring specials prepared in honor of St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo, and other holidays.

The Main Street Café has been putting on such a fine show that in one short year of business, it has succeeded in becoming a deeply engrained part of the Spencer community.

Boda-Keegan recalled one comment made by an older man who attended the Finnish Fest on Thursday, "He came in at the height of the chaos, and before he left, he came up to me and took my hand and he said, 'Every time I come here, it gets better and better,' and then he said 'I love your emails. I send them to all of my friends in Ithaca.' That was very sweet. That was my favorite of the night"



Happy Finger Lakes Finns Diners: Jim and Virpi Loomis, Patty Huttenen, Lisa daCunha-Koski, Hemmo Huttenen.

The comment was one of many overheard in the dining room on Thursday, and surely will be only one of many, many more in what hopes to be the long future of the Main Street Café in Spencer.

In the near future, however, the café plans to continue putting on their ethnic food nights, and this year, following the Spencer Picnic, a Sunday Brunch will be held at the café to cap of the festivities.

To sign up for the newsletter or visit the webpage of the Main Street Café, go to www.mainstcafe.net, and don't forget to send in your comments.

A Word from Our President

Richard Ahola

Summer and fall are eventful for Finns living in the northeast with Juhannus, Finnfest, a September concert in Newfield, and the fifteenth annual FinnFunn Weekend chaired by Anita and Jack Smiley in Windsor, Connecticut.

John Laine, President of Finlandia Foundation, joined the Finger Lakes Finns at Hemmo and Patty Huttunen's Southview Farm to celebrate Juhannus. In a note to Janet and me, John states that he has never been welcomed more cordially or graciously than by the Finger Lakes Finns. That is quite a statement from a man who has attended meetings with Finnish Americans all over the country for many years.

The Thursday evening before Juhannus, a large contingent of Finns and friends celebrated an excellent Finnish meal and music by Toivo at the Main Street Cafe in Spencer. Thanks to the owners and staff of the Main Street Cafe and to Eeva Krusius for providing excellent



support as guest chef. I hope that Finn night can become an annual event.

An article on the September eighth concert in this newsletter describes what will prove to be a memorable event. I hope to see you there.

On October 12-14, 2007, Finn Funn Weekend will be held at the Hartford/Windsor Airport Marriott. For information check out the website www.fahs-ct.org or call Marcia Huhta at 860 564-7432.

Finnish Concert in Newfield

by *Richard Koski*

On September 8, Saturday evening, at 7:30 pm, the Finger Lakes Finns will be presenting a concert at the Newfield High School auditorium. Featured performers will be Maria Mannisto, the 2007 Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year, and our own local band, Toivo.



Maria Mannisto, a resident of Bellevue, Washington, is commended as one of the finest young sopranos in the Pacific Northwest with versatility in many styles including medieval chant, jazz, rock, Finnish folk songs, and Finnish and Argentinean tangos. Her recent debut in a modern opera

was highly acclaimed. Maria is also known as an inspiring choir director, pianist, and organist. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music, and is currently studying in the Master of Music Program at the University of Washington.

From Trumansburg, NY, Toivo will be playing their toe tapping, good time Finnish dance music as part of the evening's program. Old time Finnish polkas, schottisches, and waltzes will be played along with some spicy Tex-Mex and Toivo originals. The band is made up of Richard Koski, the 2005 Finlandia Foundation Performer of the Year, on button accordion, Jason Koski on mandolin, Jim Reidy on guitar, and Harley and Annie Campbell on upright bass and snare drum.

Admission is free, and coffee and refreshments will be available after the concert. Funding for the concert is made possible by a Tompkins County Tourism Grant with support from the Town of Newfield. For more information, phone 387-4854.

2007 Quilt Project

by Robert and Shirley Barton

Several ladies of the Finger Lakes Finns quilting group worked diligently on this year's raffle quilt. Despite many weather related, work meeting cancellations, and technical glitches, the quilt finally came together in time for Juhannus, where it was displayed on the sauna wall (the outside wall, that is!)

The rail fence pattern is probably from the 19th century, done in blue, green, and yellow batiks-colors, like the summertime colors of the hills and fields in the Finger Lakes. We hope that the raffle will be a great success. Applause to Patti Huttunen, Shirley Barton, Barbara Twombly, Virpi Loomis, Lisa Koski, and Nancy Pakkala for persevering with true Finnish sisu.

The drawing will take place in September. If you would like tickets, please contact Shirley Barton: 607-387-9224; sebarton@fltg.net; PO Box 184, Mecklenburg NY 14863.

Raffle Ticket Prices- 1/\$1; 6/\$5; 15/\$10

Robert O. Barton / Shirley E. Barton
robarton@fltg.net / sebarton@fltg.net

August 19 FLF Meeting

by Lisa daCunha-Koski

The vital topic of health care here and around the world will be the subject of our August 19 Finger Lakes Finns meeting. The Tompkins County Task Force's co-directors Rebecca Elgie and Bernie Fetterly will be our presenters. They will discuss their push toward universal health care on a federal level, the single payer system, and how it would be supported.

Rebecca and Bernie have presented their program to 18 counties thus far. Recently they gave a presentation in Trumansburg, sponsored by Back To Democracy.

Scholarship Recipient Update

by Erin A. Signor

Since I received the Finger Lakes Finns scholarship in 2003, I have attended Binghamton University and received a degree in English, with concentrations in Rhetoric and Global Culture.

I was fortunate enough to bring 32 college credits with me when I went to college, thanks to the programs at Spencer-Van Etten high school, and I completed my degree requirements a year ahead of schedule. However, at the end of my three years of study I changed my mind! I no longer wanted to teach English or English as a Second Language.

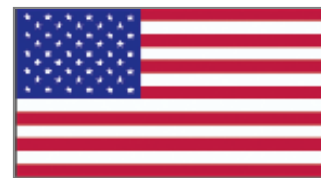
An introductory level Nutrition class completely changed my direction in life, and I decided to stay at BU

for an additional semester to take some classes in Health and Physical Education, along with an Anthropology course called "Food, Drink and Identity." I accepted my degree in December of last year and I am currently serving as an AmeriCorps member at the Rural Health Network of South Central New York.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with AmeriCorps, it is very similar to the Peace Corps in that it is a form of national service. Unlike the Peace Corps, all of the positions are located within the United States. My title at the Rural Health Network is Health Promotion Associate. The Health Promotion program area focuses on the preventative side of health care.

The program I have worked most closely with is Simply Health, a nine-week wellness program designed to help participants develop healthier eating habits, to exercise more frequently, to manage stress safely and healthily, and to educate participants on the correlation between an unhealthy lifestyle and increased risk of chronic disease.

My yearlong AmeriCorps term ends November thirtieth and I hope to attend graduate school for a Master's Degree in Public Health beginning next January.



Finger Lakes Finns Officers

President: Richard Ahola

Vice President: Lisa Koski

Treasurer: Barbara Twombly

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Membership and Change of Address Coupon

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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

August 18: Saturday afternoon - Visit the Finger Lakes Finns' table at the Spencer Picnic. Quilt raffle ticket sales, scholarship mugs, and Finnish music by Richard Koski

August 19: Sunday, 1pm - Finger Lakes Finns meeting at the Newfield Fire Hall. Dish to pass luncheon, business meeting and program on national health care policy.

September 4: Tuesday, 6-10 pm - Toivo plays Finnish and Tex-Mex music at Maxie's Supper Club, 635 West State Street, Ithaca.

See the Toivo website at www.honkingduck.com/toivo

September 8: Saturday, 7:30 pm - Finger Lakes Finns present a concert by Maria Mannisto and Toivo at the Newfield High School auditorium, Main St. Newfield. Refreshments to follow in the cafeteria. Free admission. Phone 387 4854 for information.

September 30: Sunday, 4-6 pm - Toivo plays Finnish and Tex-Mex music at Americana Winery, 4367 East Covert Road, Interlaken, NY.

October 21: 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 [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