
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 12, Number 3

NEWSLETTER

August / Elokuu 2008

Finnish Fall Adult Week at Salolampi Suomalainen syksyinen seikkailu September 6-12, 2008

Registrations are still available for the "Suomalainen syksyinen seikkailu", September 6-12, 2008 - Finnish Fall Adult Week at Salolampi, the Finnish Language Village, north of Bemidji, Minnesota. The program, sponsored by Salolampi Foundation and Concordia Language Villages, focuses on Finnish culture and language instruction at all levels. Salolampi provides a setting reminiscent of Finland, and features Finnish architecture and furnishings. Salolampi is a program of Concordia Language Villages and Concordia College, which provides experiences in language and cultural learning for all ages.

In addition, specialists will offer presentations on various aspects of Finnish and Finnish-American culture, history and life. Participants will practice traditional crafts and skills, games, outdoor activities, music, food demonstrations, guided conversation and other important elements of the Finnish language and culture. Five cabins house up to eight adults each; lower bunks are used for sleeping. Shared bathrooms with private shower facilities are in each cabin and in lower level of the dining hall. A rustic sauna is available.

The program is open to adults age 18 and above at a cost of \$550. Commuters from the Bemidji area may attend at a reduced rate. Check-in time is 5:00 p.m. on the first day and checkout is noon on the last day.

For further information about the Finnish Fall Adult Week or other programs of the Language Villages, please call Concordia Language Villages – Bemidji at 1-800-450-2214, email: clvevent@cord.edu or check out the Web site: www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org

Sulo Anderson Exhibit

As Rich Koski wrote in the May edition of the Finger Lakes Finns Newsletter, the Spencer Historical Society is exhibiting the paintings and woodcarvings of Sulo Anderson. Sulo was a chicken farmer, carpenter, draftsman, mandolin player, and was well known as a talented artist who painted scenes of the places and people around Spencer from the 1940s to the 60s.

Many of his paintings are hanging on the walls of people in this area.

The Sulo Anderson exhibit continues at the Spencer Historical Society, 2-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, through the month of August. For other times by appointment call Alice Thayer, 589-6670.



Sulo Anderson's "The Auction"
At the Spencer Historical Society



"A Mountain Scene"
By Sulo Anderson
At the Spencer Historical Society



Losing a Friend

By Bill deLong (©11/2007)

This story is dedicated to John F. Salmi, New York State Labor Inspector. John lived from 1930 to 1968. His brothers are Toivo and Waino Salmi.

The year was 1960. I had acquired New York State working papers to work for wages on Oiva Lahtinen's farm. Oiva was our neighbor on South Hill. It was Oiva and I who had raked and baled 300 bales of hay in the morning, and it was getting late in the afternoon with rain forecast for the next day. Out of nowhere, four men showed up. The two I remember were Larry Salmi, Emil's son, and John. We got all the hay in about early evening. John approached me and said, "Do you like to bowl?"

I said I didn't know how, but he took me home and asked to see my mother, Salme. He asked her in Finnish if he could take me bowling. My mother had two answers for everything, "We'll see", and "Maybe", but she looked at me and said, "yes". I was stunned.



For the next seven plus years, John taught me how to bowl and fish, and took me most everywhere, whenever I was not working. He got me my first job two days after I graduated high school in 1967, and said I could stay with him in Elmira to save me the drive from the Spencer area. John spent the week in Elmira and weekends in Spencer. Oh, by the way, John and I picked the rocks and built the foundation for the garage that is at the corner of South Hill Road and Sabin road. John and I spent uncountable hours together and I learned a tremendous amount from him. John was very intelligent and was first in his college graduating class.

It was a Sunday night, and I was coming from Elmira, about 1:30 AM, and saw John's car in the driveway, next to the Texaco. I had been with John on Friday night and decided not to stop because it was late. Then, on Tuesday evening, I stopped at the Texaco for gas and saw John's car in the driveway, with a broken headlight. I told Charlie Nelson to fill it up and went inside. John's brother Toivo was inside the garage and I asked him, "John's car is in the driveway. Is he home?" Toivo said he was at the funeral home.

I asked, "What the heck is John doing at the funeral home this time of night"? He said John died in Dansville, New York on Monday afternoon. I told Toivo, "This must be a bad joke, isn't it?" He said it was no joke, and asked if I would be a pallbearer for John. I said yes and to let me know when. I paid for my gas, disregarded my evening plans, and drove by what is now the Allan-Manzer funeral home. The lights were on, but no cars in the driveway. Then it started to sink in that it must be true. I had lost my best friend. I was devastated, and I can tell you, the next full night's sleep occurred about one month later.

The day of the funeral, I took my last look at John, and carried him to his resting place in the Halsey Valley Cemetery. It took me over a year to settle the battle in my mind that John was gone. I had been to funerals before this, even as a pallbearer, but nothing in my life has affected me as much as that sad day in 1968. As of today, I have never had a friend like John since.

It has been 39 years since I lost my best friend, and I still remember that day. It's like a recording that doesn't stop. I have flown over every continent in the world to work and have been successful. I think the reason for this is what John told me about 1964, when we were fishing. He said, "Bill, you're of part Finnish decent, and in your life it will appear you don't fit in, but ignore them because I know what you are made of and so do you." He said he had experienced the same thing. I never knew John to own a crystal ball, but how right he was!

I had many friends in the Spencer area and lost them when I left New York State in 1977. My friends in Spencer were older and wiser, and were Finns. That's how I learned life, especially from John. That is what makes Finns different! It's in the Finnish heritage.

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Bill De Long played baseball for Spencer in the late 50's. His grandparents are Albin and Ida Lehtonen from South Hill, and his mother is Salme Lehtonen. His sister is Karen De Long who graduated from Spencer in 1961. Bill currently resides at 172 Hurricane Grove Rd., in Shelbyville, Tennessee.

A Word from Our President  
*Lisa dC-Koski*



Juhannus was an enjoyable occasion, even though rain dropped in for a short time at the outset. We had about 85 in attendance, some from distant points. Foods were varied and plentiful. The Washburn family provided music, with Katrina on violin, Lars on French horn, and Kent on piano.

Thomas Connor entertained with a Finnish polka and schottische played on the fiddle. Richard and Jason Koski added several traditional pieces on accordion and mandolin, which were enjoyed by all. Thanks again to Patty and Hemmo Huttunen and family for hosting the event, and thanks also to the volunteers.

The Spencer Picnic is coming up in August on the third weekend. We'll have two tables there on Saturday starting at noon for our varied collection of great items for the silent auction. Bring your item or a poster showing it, and list the minimum bid. We'll be accepting bids at the Spencer Picnic, Newfield Old Home Day on Sept. 12, and at our Fall Festival on Sept. 21. The items will be given out at the Festival.

Hope to see you at all three events.

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### Purple Asters, Autumn Enters

Lavender, pastel pink and simple white  
Filling the roadside ditches, and then  
climbing up the banks.

Were you there in August?  
Are you September's last floral burst  
Signaling summer's end  
And then?

Luckily milkweed's deep pinks nearby,  
A few stalwart cattails topped with  
brown brush-like seed cylinders.

We're not alone as Autumn enters.

Lisa dC-Koski



### Donations to the Finger Lakes Finns

If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Finger Lakes Finns, please indicate whether you want it to go to the scholarship fund or the general fund. If you want the donation to be made in memory of someone, please indicate who it should be in memory of and to which fund it should go.

We would like to acknowledge your gift in our February '09 newsletter. We will not print the dollar amounts of the gifts. *If you wish your donation to be anonymous, let us know and we will not print your name.*

Make checks out to Finger Lakes Finns, and send to our Treasurer, Barbara Twombly, PO Box 435, Spencer, NY 14883.

*Thank you.*

*As a non-profit organization, contributions to the Finger Lakes Finns are deductible to the full extent of the tax law.*



#### Finger Lakes Finns Officers

**President:** Lisa Koski

**Vice President:** Virpi Loomis

**Treasurer:** Barbara Twombly

**Secretary:** Jeanne Frandsen

#### Membership and Change of Address Coupon

Join \_\_\_ Change \_\_\_ Renew \_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

To join/renew Finger Lakes Finns membership, please send \$5 per person for '08 (Please note that for the '09 membership, dues have been raised to \$10 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

Aug. 16: Saturday afternoon – Visit the Finger Lakes Finns' table at the Spencer Picnic. Bid on items for our silent auction, visit old friends, and listen to live Finnish music.

Aug. 21: Thursday, 7-10 pm - Toivo performance and CD release party at the Pourhouse on Main Street in Trumansburg.

Sept. 13: Saturday afternoon - Newfield Old Home Days. Visit the Finger Lakes Finns' table.

Sept. 21: Sunday, 1 pm – Finger Lakes Finns meeting and Fall Festival at the Newfield Fire Hall. Dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, and silent auction.

Oct. 19: Sunday, 1 pm – 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. **For the remainder of '08, membership dues are \$5 per person. For the '09 membership, please note that dues have been raised to \$10 per person.** 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 please use the form in this issue or at [www.FingerLakesFinns.org](http://www.FingerLakesFinns.org). Mail the form with 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.

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](mailto:loomis@htva.net)]. The Editorial committee is Jim Loomis, Richard Koski, and Lisa Koski. **Submissions for the newsletter are due on the 15th of the month before publication.**

Finger Lakes Finns Newsletter  
c/o Jim Loomis, Editor  
19 Upper Clark Avenue  
Van Etten, NY 14889