
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 13, Number 1

NEWSLETTER

February / Helmikuu 2009

Marja's Skis

A Book Review

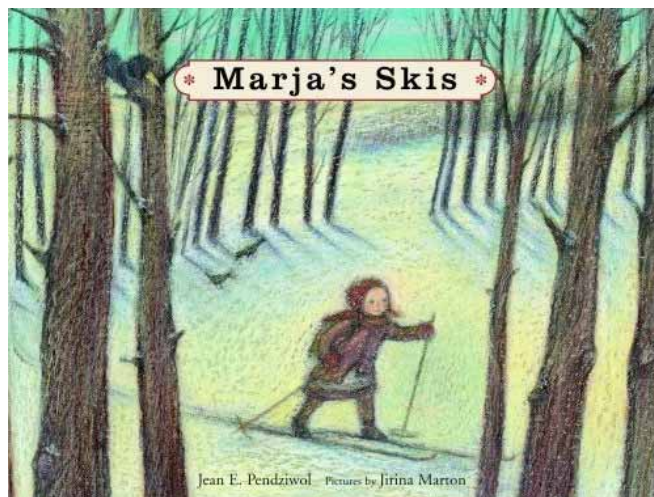
by Katrina Mackey

While in the Tompkins County Public Library Youth Services Department picture-book stacks with my toddler son recently, I knelt down to hold a row of books in place while he tugged and jiggled free a randomly selected storybook. As I stood up again, I caught the following title in the corner of my notice-anything-Finnish eye: *Marja's Skis*. So, while my son happily carried away his prized story about painting or bulldozers or spiders, I quickly grabbed the "must-be-Finn-related-with-that-kind-of-a-title" book and added it to our pile before racing after him on his next quest.

Since then, both my husband and I have read *Marja's Skis* aloud to our six-year-old daughter and we all find it to be a charming book.

The story concerns a family's experiences at a logging community in the Canadian Great Lakes Region, told from the point-of-view of Marja, the youngest daughter of an immigrant Finnish family. One morning when she is seven, Marja finds a new pair of skis in the yard, an indication that she can now attend school with her older sister Eeva. Her father advises her, "When you are strong inside, you can do anything", and by the end of the story, little Marja has displayed that inner strength, her *sisu*. The story doesn't hide the harsh realities faced by hard-working immigrant laborer families in the early 1900s, but neither does it tell an overly frightening tale for the younger readers or listeners.

The oil pastel illustrations skillfully convey the emotion of each scene, along with some Finnish nuances, while still leaving room for young imaginations to fill in details.



We've had some interesting discussions with our daughter following each reading, ranging from "Why did Finnish men make good lumberjacks?", "Is this story fact or fiction?", and "Why is it dangerous to fall in the ice?", to "I like pulla a lot."

A nice addition to this storybook is the single page at the end providing historical information about the Finns who came to North America in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Marja's Skis by Jean E. Pendziwol, illustrated by Jirina Marton, and published in 2007 by Groundwood Books House of Anansi Press, www.groundwoodbooks.com.



A Remembrance

Bill Høglund, Finnish-American Scholar

HØGLUND, Arthur William, 81, of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., passed away peacefully in the presence of friends on May 1, 2008. A. William (Bill) Høglund was born in Baltimore, Md., on Sept. 4, 1926. He distinguished himself as an American historian, writing on agricultural and immigrant history, particularly of the Finns. His dedication and service to Finland led to Høglund being knighted by the Republic of Finland in October 2004 and awarded the medal of the White Rose, Finland's highest civilian honor.



Photo by Kaz Takahashi

Høglund grew up in the upstate New York Finnish American community of Spencer-Van Etten, a community of abandoned farms that Finnish immigrants purchased and brought back to life as chicken farms. His parents, a Finnish born father and a Finnish American mother, left urban life and became chicken farmers, part of the co-operative farming community that formed there.

After graduating from Spencer High School in 1945, Høglund attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, where he received a B.A. in history in 1949. He then enrolled in graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He obtained graduate degrees in history (M.A. '50, Ph.D. '57). While working on his Ph.D., Høglund was drafted and spent four years in the United States Army. His dissertation, *Paradise Rebuilt: Finnish Immigrants and Their America, 1880-1920*, was published as a book in 1960 entitled *Finnish Immigrants in America: 1880-1920*.

Høglund accepted a position as assistant professor at Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio, in 1957 and taught there until 1961. In that year, he joined the faculty at the University of Connecticut-Storrs, where he rose to the rank of Professor of History. He remained at the University of Connecticut until he retired in 1997.

Bill Høglund is survived by his life partner, Kaz Takahashi. He was a devoted son who cared for his parents while continuing his own academic career. Høglund was preceded in death by his sister, Thelma, who died at age 19 in 1946; his father, Arthur Alexander Høglund in 1992; and his mother, Sigrid L. Høglund in 1997.

2008 Donations to the Finger Lakes Finns

General Fund: Cherie Wendelken and Jeb Brooks, Carolyn Mackie, Shirley Snyder. Aili Louko in memory of Arne Louko and Don Louko; Frank Gottberg in memory of Gunnar and Hilja Gottberg; Ruth Gourlay in memory of Matt and Aili Lampila.

Scholarship Fund: Judith Maxwell, James Loomis, Helvi McClelland, Anonymous, Cherie Wendelken and Jeb Brooks. Gayle Greuber in honor of her mother Sylvia Uittos Maatta; Ellen Storch in memory of Matt and Aili Lampila; Eva Poysa in memory of George Alve and William Høglund; Virpi Loomis in memory of Art Kahkonen; Barbara Twombly in memory of Art Kahkonen and George Alve.

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 or honor of someone, please indicate that and to which fund it should go.

We will acknowledge all 2009 donations in our February 2010 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.

As a non-profit organization, your contribution to the Finger Lakes Finns is deductible to the full extent of the tax law.

Make checks out to Finger Lakes Finns, and send to our treasurer, Barbara Twombly, PO Box 435, Spencer, NY 14883. Thank you to all for your generous support of the Finger Lakes Finns.

The U.S. census for 2010 is starting up and jobs are available, but you must sign up to take the test.

Call 1 886 861 2010 or visit the census website www.census.gov/2010census/. At this site you can download application forms, do a practice test, and find other useful information.

Identification is required. Usually passport OR driver's license AND social security card will suffice. Other forms of identification may be acceptable.

2009 Finger Lakes Finns Finland Tour

10 – 21 JULY 2009

www.fingerlakesfinns.org

Round trip airfare on FINNAIR
from JFK/New York to Helsinki.

Breakfast daily and meals as indicated.

Modern air-conditioned coach throughout
Finland.

Sightseeing in each city with an
English/Finnish Speaking Guide.

Travel from Helsinki to Porvoo, Kotka,
Lappeenranta, Mikkeli, Savonlinna, Joensuu,
Lieksa, Nurmes, Kuhmo, Kuopio, Jyväskylä,
Tampere, Turku, and returning to Helsinki.

Experience many unique sites, surprises
and stops along the way.

Group limit – 35 maximum and 15 minimum.

Deposit due February 24, 2009.

See website (www.FingerLakesFinns.org) for itinerary
and registration. For more information contact
Jean Lindblad, 445 Main Street, Newfield, NY 14867
or

call (607) 564-7907, (607) 229-3012 or
email jelindbl@twcnv.rr.com



The Christmas Project

The Finger Lakes Finns have provided poinsettias to our shut-in members at Christmas time for many years, but we decided to do something different this year. Shirley Barton and Susan Pakkala suggested that hand made table decorations of seasonal greenery could be a good project.

At the November 2008 meeting, our members brought the material and their skill, and very successfully carried out this new project. More than twenty-two table decorations were created and delivered to our shut-in members.

Many compliments were received and many of the creative participants were enthusiastic about doing this again.

We were particularly pleased to note that this project involved our members of all ages and abilities at this time of year.

Finger Lakes Finns Scholarships

*By Joann Neal, Chair
Scholarship Committee*

At the June 2008 Juhannus Celebration, three Finger Lakes Finns Scholarship winners were announced. Out of a pool of seven area applicants, and after careful consideration, the three winners were announced as: Kevin Latson of Spencer, Kaarin Washburn of Ithaca, and Brendan Hatlee of Horseheads. Their chosen areas of study are diverse: Kevin in environmental sciences and forestry at Syracuse University, Kaarin in the Exploratory in the School of Humanities and Sciences at Ithaca College and Brendon in a dual study of French and education at Hobart and William Smith College.

Recent contacts with families and/or students indicate that all three students have successfully completed their first semester. All are doing well and are actively engaged in their second semester of studies.

The Scholarship Committee, composed of Lisa Koski, Judith Maxwell and Joann Neal, were particularly pleased with such a large pool of applicants. The other four candidates were from Elmira, Newfield and Horseheads. All seven candidates represented a wide range of connections with their cultural heritage. The 2009 Application packets will soon be distributed throughout the local area, and we look forward to hearing from area seniors.

Finger Lakes Finns
Scholarship Committee
c/o Joann Neal, Chair
pippieneal@gmail.com
(607) 243-5145
Box 187, Watkins Glen NY 14891.



The Poetry Corner

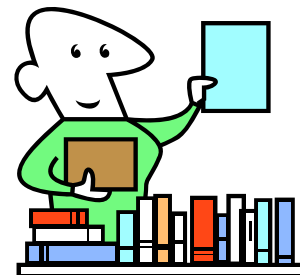
Late Winter's Surprises

The bluebirds arrived early
In February, before the robins
Robins appeared soon after, like magic
In mid-February, a large group
Mingling with the winter stayovers
Cardinals, chickadees, and mourning doves,
Who, during winter's drear',
Kept the cheer.

Welcome, early comers!

Spring'll soon be here!

By Lisa dC Koski



A Word from Our President

Lisa dC-Koski

In this very cold, wintery season, we are warmed by the fellowship at our meetings, by the variety of good foods of our dish-to-pass lunches, and the cooperation of all the members who do various tasks cheerfully.

The lovely Christmas decorations made by all the FLF members at the November meeting were distributed in early December to our 22 shut-ins. These decorations of evergreens, ribbons, small pine cones, toy bells, and bows brought cheer to all who saw them. Thanks to Richard and Janet Ahola for decorating the Finnish Christmas tree at the Roberson Center in Binghamton.

There are several programs planned for enjoyable entertainment at our meetings; music performed by Laurie Hart and Stefan Ohlström, new DVDs, a program on Indonesia, and our annual quiz show. You can borrow books from our library to review for the quiz program's sections on geography and history of Finland. Three other topics are music, sports, and Finnish language. Prizes are awarded to the top five contestants.

Jean Lindblad and her committee have been planning for our FinnFunn Weekend to be held in Ithaca on the first weekend of October.

Remember that your 2009 membership dues of \$10 per person are due and can be sent to Jeanne Frandsen. See details on the last page.

Keep warm. Hope to see you at the February meeting.



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 \$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.

Mission Statement of the Finger Lakes Finns

The following is the Mission Statement of the Finger Lakes Finns as discussed, voted on, and approved by those members present at the January 18, 2009 meeting:

The Finger Lakes Finns is organized to promote cultural and educational appreciation of Finnish heritage and customs, to provide a social setting for enjoying old and new friendships in the Finnish tradition, and to pursue charitable community activities. Membership shall consist of persons of Finnish descent, those married to persons of Finnish descent, and any other persons interested in the work and activities of the society.

The above mission statement will be posted on our website, fingerlakesfinns.org

SAVE THE DATE

Finn Funn Weekend 2009

Hosted by the Finger Lakes Finns

Clarion University Hotel

Ithaca, NY

October 2, 3, 4, 2009

Anyone wishing to exhibit items, rent a vendor table or participate in programs please indicate your interest to us. For information or questions email Jean Lindblad at jelindbl@twcnv.rr.com. Watch the Finger Lakes Finns website for updates (www.fingerlakesfinns.org).

Calendar of Coming Events

February 15, Sunday, 1 p.m., Newfield Fire Hall. FLF dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, and program: DVD – “Tradition Bearers”

February 17, Tuesday, 7 –10 p.m. Toivo performs at the Pourhouse on Main Street in Trumansburg. February 20, 5-8 p.m. at Felicia’s Atomic Lounge on State St. in Ithaca. April 19, 4-6 pm at Americana Winery, East Covert Road, Interlaken.

March 15, Sunday, 1 p.m. Newfield Fire Hall. FLF dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, and program: Laurie Hart, fiddler from Ithaca with Steffan Ohlström, fiddler from Sweden present a program of Scandinavian dance tunes.

April 15, Wednesday, newsletter deadline for submission of articles, poems, photos, and notices for the May 2009 issue. Send to Jim Loomis, Editor, 19 Upper Clark Ave., Van Etten, NY 14889 or email loomis@htva.net.

April 19, Sunday, 1 p.m. Newfield Fire Hall. FLF dish to pass luncheon, business meeting, and program: Judith Maxwell will present a program on Indonesia.

Mission and Membership

Membership in Finger Lakes Finns is open to anyone of Finnish origin or with an interest in Finnish culture. Dues are \$10 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 please use the form in this issue or at **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]. 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