
Finger Lakes Finns

Volume 13, Number 2

NEWSLETTER

May / Toukokuu 2009

A Review

by *Lisa dC-Koski*

A copy of my new chapbook of poetry, "Nature's Balm in Troubled Times" was sent to Professor Margarita S. de Balmaceda, who is Chairperson of the Department of Humanities at the University of Puerto Rico in Ponce, Puerto Rico. She wrote back on March 18, 2009:

Congratulations on your book of poetry, "Nature's Balm in Troubled Times". It is extraordinary. The concise form, the deep feelings, the "tour de force" in many of them, the warm humanity, the detailed and precise observation of nature, the wisdom and clarity, all of these come together in the making of your touching poetry. My colleagues participated in the appreciation. I didn't forget my students either. I had copies made for my painting class of "Remembering Paul Schrader of Cleveland, Ohio" and associated this poignant and significant tale with one of our class projects – expressing in painting surrealism or their personal stand towards one of the problems of humanity. It is no doubt admirable how you have always stood courageously for peace. It is the most beautiful moment of your years...



At our February 15 meeting, Laurie Hart, fiddler from Ithaca with Stefan Ohlström, fiddler from Sweden presented a program of Scandinavian dance tunes.



Laurie Hart with her fiddle



Laurie Hart with Stefan Ohlström



Laurie's Nickleharp

The Wind

Ah, I hear you out there, raging, shaking the trees,
dropping broken tree limbs onto the porch roof
yes, you come from the West, you're breathing snow,
cold rains and sleet, what angered you to move with such violence.

You have so many faces, in summer the gentle winds, warm and loving
with a Sinatra song on your lips, wearing a garland of flowers
sweetness exuding from you, I love you in those calm days
of bliss and sun warmth – a lover's holiday.

When you blow in from the South you bring heat. I remember those
southern winds coming up the valley in early Spring, promising
a short season of relief, the clothes flapping on the lines out back
the children running like carefree fawns through the dale
their long Blond hair flowing like a river, gently flipping in waves near the shore
laughing, loving their short free time of life as children
then you age, dramatically when you visit from the North.

Jack Frost purses himself around your lips
your cloak is a heavy weight rolling like thunder trailing behind
a demon chasing the very elements of life
you push the water mobilizing the mighty ships at sea
over the bounding main - ah yes, you are the motivator
since the dawn first cracked the skies
when you rage, I clasp my frocks closer around me
as you like to unclothe me, bare me to the raw elements
where surly I cringe from fear and shame of my nakedness
then you are an unwanted predator invading my world, exposing my secrets.

You changer of the seasons, four faces, four directions, cleaning the atmosphere
like a new broom sweeping clean, our skies, our attitudes.

I see you waving the crops of summer, the wheat heads gently bowing,
and I hear you rustling the leaves of fall,
and on your back you bring the white snows of winter
making a clean white canvas - ready for the painter.

Leona M. House
10.28.08



A Word from Our President

Lisa dC-Koski

We have been having good spring days for enjoyment of gardening, spring flowers, hiking, and other activities the spring weather encourages.



Soon we expect some of our "snowbirds" to return from Florida and join us at our monthly meetings.

Plans for our Finn Funn Weekend, October 2-4, are moving along fruitfully. Jean Lindblad and her committee have the Clarion Hotel reserved for all the attending guests and activities. Advertisements are out, entertainers are being chosen, and other details are being worked on. Save the dates. Plan on joining your family and friends there for a good time!

A closer in time event is our annual Juhannus celebration which Patty and Hemmo Huttunen have again offered to host on June 20 at their Southview Farm in South Danby. Plan to attend with a dish to pass and your own lawn chairs.

This is the time for the completion of scholarship applications, which our committee will review, and select the winners. Those winners will be announced at Juhannus. We have received a lovely quilt to be raffled off to help benefit the scholarship fund. Many thanks to Barbara Twombly for the generous gift she made.

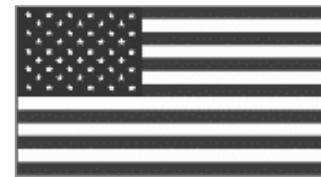
Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming events.

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



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.

Finn Funn Weekend 2009

Hosted by the Finger Lakes Finns

Clarion University Hotel

Ithaca, NY

October 2, 3, 4, 2009

Please get your reservation in early. There are many other events going on at the same time in the Ithaca area and demand for lodging will be competitive. **Registration deadline is August 21, 2009.**

Anyone wishing to exhibit items, rent a vendor table or participate in programs please indicate your interest to us.

Registration forms and information are now on our website, www.fingerlakesfinns.org.

Any questions email Jean Lindblad at jelindbl@twcny.rr.com