



Iltatähti

Evening Star



Finnish Heritage House

Officers

President: Jacqueline Harjula

Vice – President: Reggie Montgomery

Clerk/Secretary: Jacqueline Laffely

Treasurer: Edna Montgomery

Newsletter Editor: Reggie Montgomery

Send newsletter articles to regimon@roadrunner.com

Trustees

Fred Webel (April 2020)

Kathleen Anderson (April 2020)

Steve Gifford (January 2021)

Anne Little (January 2021)

Kirsti Fish (January 2021)

Building Committee

Chairman: Neil Harjula

Finnish Foreign Correspondent

Alex Anttila

Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomaston, ME 04858

Visit by Editor of the Finnish American Reporter



Here Jim is shown placing the 55th pin on our map for his family's home town in Finland. It was taken by the Russians after the Continuation War ended in 1945. It is now in Russia.

James Kurtti, editor of the Finnish American Reporter and director of the Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan, made a surprise appearance at the Finnish Heritage House Board of Directors November meeting. Jim had just attended the annual FinnFunn weekend in Troy, New Hampshire and was on his way to Deer Isle to collect several works of art by the late Finnish American artist Gerald Immonen being donated to the Heritage Center. Jim spoke to the directors about the services for restoring and preserving paper documents that the Heritage Center can provide for items given to their archives. The Farnsworth Museum and Wyeth Center were highlights of his visit to the midcoast and we discussed with him the many people of Finnish descent who are in Andrew Wyeth's paintings. Much of the year Jim is traveling to Finnish American gatherings both in the states and in Finland often returning with items of cultural and historical significance donated to the Finnish American Heritage Center by individuals and families.

**CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL!
HAS YOUR MEMBERSHIP
EXPIRED?**

Your name will be removed if you are more than two years overdue. We will send a notice when your membership has expired for nine months. Printed newsletters will stop being sent one year after expiration.



Ruusamari Teppo visits FHH



On Sat. morning, Oct. 11 Ruusamari Teppo and her four year old daughter Annabel paid us a visit at the Finnish Heritage House. Here they are pictured on the left with Jackie Harjula and Eileen Partanen. The picture on the right is with Edna Montgomery. Both pictures were taken in the tori at FHH.

Ruusamari Teppo Concert

On October 11th, we all enjoyed a very memorable evening of piano music at the Federated Church in Thomaston, performed by the great great granddaughter of Sibelius, Ruusamari Teppo. We also heard excerpts of translated letters that Jean and Aino Sibelius had written to each other, that were read by Jackie Harjula. The evening concluded with a very endearing piece that both Ruusamari and her four and a half year old daughter Annabel performed together.



Left; Pictured with their host Mariann Ahola. Right; Ruusamari and Annabei at the piano at the Federated Church in Thomaston, ME during her concert.



Ruusamari Teppo



Left: Ruusamari and Annabel standing at the piano. Picture on right; Jackie Harjula wearing an authentic Finnish costume with Ruusamari.



Recipe Box

WHIPPED CRANBERRY PUDDING

2 cps whole cranberries
 1 qt. of water
 scant cup of sugar or to taste
 1/2 cp regular cream of wheat or farina
 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. of almond extract

Cook cranberries until soft, crush and strain. Add sugar and cream of wheat to the juice, stirring briskly to avoid lumps. Cook until thick and at the boiling point.

Remove from heat, add almond extract. Whip with a spoon or electric mixer until light pink, cool and puffy. Serve with light cream. Should be eaten the same day it is made.

Computer Corner

Our personal computers provide a great way to share your interest in our Finnish Heritage with friends and family. Share your copy of this newsletter either by postal mail, or even better by sending a copy by email. You can also refer them to our website's internet address, or URL... < <http://www.finnheritage.org> >. A copy of our newsletter is available for viewing there also.

"Are you receiving a copy of this newsletter by Postal Mail, AND also by E-Mail? It costs us about \$2.00 more to send a newsletter via postal mail. If you are willing to get your copy exclusively by E-Mail Please let us know and confirm your email address. (send an email to < fawebel@gmail.com >)

Halloween with Finn-Am



Pictured from left, Back row: Reggie Montgomery, Gary Swanson, Astrid Weaver (orange hat), Marion Martin, Scott Hodgkins, David Little, Cynthia Cremoni, Bob Cremoni, Arthur Fish, Anna Silverman, Anne Little. Front Row: Kirsti Fish, Jackie Harjula, Lynn Snow, Gloria Dennison, Helvi Silverman

This is the group that dressed in costumes for the Finn-Am Halloween pot luck lunch and meeting Oct. 19. Several of these people are members of Finnish Heritage House as well as Finn-Am. The pot luck was delicious, as always and the participation of people wearing costumes was great.

Thanksgiving with Finn-Am

On November 16th member of Finnish Heritage House joined Finn-Am Society of Midcoast Maine for a joint meeting and had a delicious pot luck Thanksgiving dinner. Members of the groups had previously signed up to bring all the many different parts of the meal. Twenty seven people were present and enjoyed the wonderful dinner.

This year there were several reasons for a low turnout. Many of our members went to "FinnFun" weekend in Troy, NH, some were working and some were ill.





Notice!

The Finnish Heritage House will be closing for the winter soon. Weather permitting Dec. 14 will be the last day to get your favorite items from our tori and bake shop.



Roy Tappio Wood Carvings

Roy Tappio is a longtime Finnish friend of FHH. He carves these and several other wood figures. He makes them available to the FHH tori so we can make them available to our members, guests and customers.

Suomalaiset Jouset Completes Another Busy Year

Suomalaiset Jouset, our kantele ensemble, has performed over 70 concerts the past 9 years in nursing homes, historical societies, retirement communities, schools, museums, senior college classes and churches. This year the ensemble was honored to play at the memorial services for Art Jura, Evelyn Kalloch and Allan Laukka. During the Christmas season the group performed at Bella Point, Windward Gardens, the Woodlands, Bartlett Woods, the Farnsworth Art Museum, the Lincoln Home and Montpelier. Members enjoy representing the midcoast's Finnish American organizations and sharing the beautiful kantele music with the public.

The first four practices for 2020 will be held January 11th and 25th and February 8th and 22nd. The group practices in Jura Hall every other Saturday from 8:30 to 10:30 during the Fall and Winter, so stop by on a Saturday morning to hear our lovely music, meet the players and learn more about Finland's national folk instrument. You do not need to read music to play the kantele, the only requirement is to be able to count to five. Suomalaiset Jouset members are looking forward to 2020, our tenth anniversary year, to continue entertaining audiences and welcoming new members.

Many of our kantele players are looking forward to the Kantele Institute which will be held in West Paris during the 3rd week in August 2020. Two kantele teachers from Finland will be teaching and a Finnish master kantele maker will conduct a week long workshop for those wishing to build their own kantele.

If you wish to learn more about Suomalaiset Jouset please call Celia Jones, the musical director, at 594-4506 or Steve Gifford at 273-2877.

Tervetuloa!



Modern kanteles



an ancient kantele



FINNFUNN WEEKEND 2019

The weekend certainly lived up to its name: lots of Finns and lots of Funn! Anne Little, Linda Grant and I journeyed to The Inn at East Hill Farm in Troy, NH on November 15. We stayed in the “Bungalow”, and each had our own room. No snoring overheard! Linda was our chauffeur, and took us on the scenic route on the way home, since the GPS was set at “no tolls.” We had no idea where we were on some of the back roads! But she got us safely back to Maine. After checking in, we enjoyed a cup of coffee and delicious homemade donuts. Did I mention that all the food served over the weekend was homemade and grown right on the farm? The staff even made pulla/nisu for us. One of the owners, Holly Luopa LeClair, is Finnish, so she made sure that everything was extra-special for us. Our wish was her command!

Anyway, back to the program. Anne, Linda and I took a class in making a Birch Bark Heart, taught by Elaine Moe. It was difficult, but they all looked quite nice when we finished-some nicer than others.



Linda Grant and Anne Little weaving hearts.

Delicious hors d’oeuvres were served at 5 p.m. during the welcoming reception, with background music by Bernie Novak. You may remember him from when he visited our FHH/Finn-Am meeting with his accordion band-the tall gentleman who had to tip his head to avoid bumping into the ceiling beams. The appetizers were plentiful, and so good it was hard to stop eating them and save room for the main course that we knew would be equally as delicious. Maple Walnut Chicken and Pot Roast, with an abundance of fresh vegetables, did not disappoint.



After opening remarks, Dr. Rikka Pietilainen-Caffrey, a professor of music at Bunker Hill Community College presented the evening program. As a conductor, composer, soloist and vocal coach, she entertained the audience with videos, solos, and even a sing-along. Her Finland 100 Chorus sang at FinnFest 2017, when Finland’s President Sauli Niinisto, was in the audience. (I was fortunate to also be there, but not sitting with the President!)



Those of us on the Raffle Committee then began setting up the display of the raffle items. So many wonderful items were donated, from homemade crafts, to books relating to Finland, to jewelry, to gift certificates, to Finnish glass and pottery, many baskets-something to appeal to everyone. We should be proud of our FHH/Finn-Am members who donated 10 items for the raffle: Kirsti Fish, Linda Grant, Anne Little, Kathleen Anderson, Martha Calinda, and Jackie Harjula. The grand total for ticket sales came to \$1420, all of which goes toward the committee’s expenses for the weekend-meals and lodging for the presenters, and sometimes an honorarium.

Ticket sales were brisk during and after breakfast, and then the three of us headed into town for the Tori/Marketplace at the local elementary school. As chair of this event, Martha Silander always signs up many vendors who offer an amazing array of Finnish and non-Finnish wares. We made sure to complete our shopping in time to return to the Inn for the showing of *Sirkka*, a documentary of Sirkka Tuomi Holm. Those of you who read the Finnish American Reporter (and if you don’t, you should subscribe) will surely be familiar with Sirkka’s popular column. “Past and Present.” Her folksy style of writing delights all who read her words.



Jim Kurtti and Jackie Harjula



Oivan Ilo



FINNFUNN WEEKEND 2019

(continued)

A Chef's Corned Beef Buffet Lunch, with hot soup, other entrees and vegetables and salads and desserts was served, after which we enjoyed snippets of various plays by Finnish playwrights. The actors played multiple roles, and their acting was excellent. They are part of the Lanesville Community Center and Rockport Community Theatre. Your Board of Directors will be inviting them to perform for us next summer, if we can work out all the details. We will need housing for 12, and probably will have a potluck meal. Does anyone have some spare beds for one or two nights?



Baked Salmon and Pot Roast was the evening meal, followed by dancing. The Revontulet Folk Dancers, accompanied by the band, Oivan Ilo, demonstrated many folk dances. Then many of us joined the dancers and learned many new dances. What fun and what good exercise. Finns sure love to dance!



Baked Salmon



Morning alarm clocks

When the drawing was held, there were ninety-four raffle prizes, and our group won some prizes. Anne won a huge basket with many kitchen items and foods, Linda won two tontus, and Jackie won a hand carved sign reading "Pussi." I had to ask many people for the translation before I got an accurate one. It means "outhouse." Since I don't have one, I am giving it to Ronnie Anderson. One of his Massachusetts friends told me he has one.

The Funn hasn't ended yet. After Sunday breakfast, the Finlandia Foundation Lecturers of the Year, Soile Anderson and Eleanor Ostman co-presented a program about Finnish foodways. We made many varieties of open-faced sandwiches, and then sampled Soile's salmon chowder. Wonderfully tasty! I spoke to Eleanor about presenting their program for FHH. She will be on vacation in Camden, Maine in June, so we hope to coordinate with her and with Soile to help us gain some skills with Finnish foods. How serendipitous is that?



Soile and Eleanor

After a Roast Turkey luncheon, we said our goodbyes to all our friends, both old and new, looking forward to our next get-together in October of 2020.



Relaxing at the inn after a long day.



FINLANDIA FOUNDATION NATIONAL BOARD MEETING HELSINKI, FINLAND OCTOBER 3-5, 2019

The Board of Trustees of Finlandia Foundation National had a very successful meeting in Helsinki. This was the first time in over twenty years that we had met in Helsinki. A lot of business was accomplished, along with meeting representatives of our many Finnish connections: Suomi Seura/Finland Society, the Institute of Migration, Fazer Chocolates (tasty samples of their new product), Finlandia University, the Finnish Film Institute, Team and Business Finland. We also presented the Award of Excellence to the duo of Finnish cellist Jussi Makkonen and pianist Nazig Azezian, who promote Finnish music and culture to audiences in the United States. They entertained us at a reception at the Helsinki City Hall Restaurant.

Prior to the meeting, I was fortunate to have time to visit my Lebanese friends of over 30 years in Sweden. After an overnight delay while trying to change planes in Moscow, I was really glad to finally get to their house. After the meeting, thanks to the hospitality of one of our FFN Board members, I was able to stay in Helsinki for a few extra days. During that time, I ventured out on the bus to visit another friend, who is now 98 years young, Eila Moijanen. She wants me to return to help her celebrate her 100th!



Ainola-Sibelius' home



Sibelius piano at Ainola

In our last newsletter, I noted what was planned for our Board meeting, so I won't repeat myself. The only change was that President Niniistö was unable to join us. He was in the US for a meeting with our President. If any of you saw that interview, he probably would have enjoyed meeting with us much more!



Left: Anita Smiley and Jackie Harjula in Senate Square, Helsinki with the cathedral in the background Right: Elaine Moe, Matti Huhta, and Jim Kurtti learning to weave a birch bark heart.



Left: Helsinki tori. Right: Havis Ananda in soap suds. One of many fountains in Helsinki.



Finnish Heritage House
P.O. Box 293
South Thomason. ME 04858

Please Join Us!

FINNSH HERITAGE HOUSE P.O. BOX 293 – South Thomaston, ME 04858

Name _____ Renewal ____ New ____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I'd like to receive the FHH newsletter by E-mail _____ U.S. Mail _____

I'd like to get involved in the following activity/activities or committee(s)

Exhibits _____ Fund Raisers/ Luncheons etc. _____. Building Maintenance _____ Docent _____

Newsletter _____ Grants _____ Music/Dance _____ Children's Activities _____ Library _____

Other (Please specify) _____

Annual Member (\$10) _____ 5 Year Member (\$45) _____ Gift \$ _____

Make checks payable to Finnish Heritage House and send to P.O. Box 293 South Thomaston, ME 04858

Is it time to renew your membership? Check your address label.