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This summer we are featuring a brand-new t-shirt honoring Finland and featuring birch trees.



Marianne Ahola modeling the new Finnish Heritage House T-Shirt.



Pulla/Nisua at our weekly bake sale

(Tori Continued)

Finnish Heritage House is open on Saturdays from 9:00 to 12:00. If you find you are in the area on other days you may call Jackie Harjula at 975-1476 or Steve Gifford at 273-2877 and we will do our best to accommodate your schedule. Tervetuloa!

Finn-Am Society March Meeting

By Anne Little

St Urho's Day was celebrated at the March meeting of the Finn Ams. Members dressed in their finest garb of green, symbolic of grasshoppers and purple, symbolic of grapes.



Anne Little reminded members of the story of how St. Urho, with pitchfork by his side, drove the grasshoppers from Finland and rescued the grape vineyards. Of course, Finland has no grasshoppers or vineyards. The saga of St. Urho was written in Minnesota to allow the Finnish population an opportunity to party while the Irish celebrated St. Patrick. It is celebrated one day before. A statue of the saint is on display in Menasha, Minnesota.

Although the story of St. Urho is fiction, it is now celebrated in many countries as well as Finland. "On my 1st trip to Finland, I found St. Urho's bar!"

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Secretary **Marianne Ahola** reads the minutes from the prior meeting.



Cindy Cremonni and **Helvi Silverman** enjoying the festivities.

Finn-Am Society **April Meeting**

By Aimee Sanfilippo

At the April 20th FinnAm meeting, we learned about the Finnish Kale (Romani) in Finland. The Finnish Kale came to Finland via Sweden after being deported from Sweden in the 17th century. The current estimates are that there are about 10,000 Roma in Finland.

April 8 is the International Roma Day. The day celebrates Roma culture and raises awareness of issues that face the Roma people. It is customary in Finland to raise the Finnish flag on this day as well



as the Roma flag. The Roma flag has a blue and green background. The blue represents heaven, spirituality, freedom, and eternity. The green represents the earth. It has a red 16-spoke cartwheel in the middle. This cartwheel refers to the itinerant history of the Roma and their origin in India.

(April Meeting Continued)

Attendees then used fibers, feathers, beads, and other embellishments to create a dream catcher with a cartwheel center.



Aimee Sanfilippo explaining the Finnish dream catcher tradition.



Finnish Heritage House Receives Finlandia Foundation National Grant

By Steve Gifford

Finnish Heritage House has received a grant from Finlandia Foundation National to digitize the summer exhibits that have been displayed over the past 15 summers. The project is entitled “Memories of the Finnish Community in Midcoastal Maine”. The material to be digitized includes photos and captions on 125 foam boards and a dozen scrapbooks of additional material. Craig Mathieson of Mathieson Digital assisted by Steve Gifford will be working on this project over the summer.



Craig and Steve holding examples of past exhibits.

The material will be placed on thumb drives which will then be given to libraries and historical societies in the mid-coast, Maine State Library, Maine State Historical Society and Finnish American Heritage Center in Hancock, Michigan. The completion of this project will result in preserving this valuable resource in a more durable format and provide easier access of the material by the public along with a much wider distribution of the material.

2024 Summer Raffle

The prize is a beautiful hand-woven rag rug once again donated by our good friend “Tooty” Wilson of Lovell, Maine. *These raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00*



The winning tickets will be drawn and announced this September 21st. Tickets for the raffle are on sale at Finnish Heritage House. The winner does not need be present to win. ***Good Luck!***



RECIPE FOR SUMMER ...
RAPARPERIKIISSELI
(RHUBARB PUDDING)



Ingredients

- 3 cups rhubarb, peeled and cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 3 cups water
- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons potato starch or 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- ⅓ cup cold water

Directions

1. Add rhubarb, 3 cups water and sugar into a stainless steel or enameled saucepan, bring to boil, lower the heat, cover, and let simmer until the rhubarb is soft, about 30 minutes.
2. Mix the starch with the cold water in a small bowl and gradually whisk it into the rhubarb mixture.
3. Bring back to boil and cook until mixture thickens.
4. Sprinkle with sugar to prevent skin from forming, allow to cool and serve with whipped cream, if desired.

Visitors From Finland

By Jackie Harjula



We were delighted to receive a request to open FHH on a Thursday afternoon. The Sisco family from Owls Head wanted to bring their friends, the Ojalas, visiting the area from Helsinki, Finland for a tour. The Ojalas also had lived in New York City for a short time. Pauli and Laura were very impressed with FHH and the Finnish Church. In the photo with Jackie Harjula are their daughters Isla and Seela. We mentioned the various Finnish musicians who had performed here in Maine for us, and it's really a small world. Eeppi Ursin had given piano lessons to Isla in NYC a couple of years ago.

Also, **Save the Date.** Eeppi will be returning to perform a concert at the Thomaston Federated Church on Sunday, December 1st. Watch for more details in our Fall newsletter.



Can You Help Us?

About two years ago a lady left three Finnish National costumes in a paper bag at Finnish Heritage House after explaining that she would return to fill in the details. Unfortunately, the individual never returned and we now have three costumes with no information as to their history. If you might have any information about these costumes, please contact either Jackie Harjula at 975-1476 or Steve Gifford at 273-2877. Hopefully with your help this mystery may be solved. Kiitos.



Meet our new FHH Treasurer, Linda Grant.

She has graciously agreed to take over from our long-term Treasurer and Board Member Edna Montgomery.



Many of you already know Linda, who is also the President of the Finn-Am Society of Midcoastal Maine. However, after speaking with her, here are some little-known bits of information to share. She was born and grew up in Rockland. After

graduation from Rockland High School, she attended two years of business school in Boston, and then was hired at John Hancock. Missing the coast of Maine, she returned to work as the

(Lind Grant Continued)

Appliance Repair Service Manager at Sears for 17 years. Linda then worked in various capacities for the State of Maine for 28 years, also working for H & R Block part time, a job she continues to hold. Her many hobbies include knitting, cross-stitching, gardening, walking, swimming, traveling (five countries so far) and skydiving (seven dives). Guess what!!! She also used to play the accordion. Linda says, "I haven't picked it up for so long, I doubt I could play it now." Fortunately, her three daughters and three granddaughters live in Maine, and she enjoys spending time with them. We appreciate Linda for taking over this task. With her talent for financial records, we know she will do an excellent job.

COMBINED FHH & FINN-AM CALENDAR

July

16 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
20 th	FINN-AM Potluck & Program	12:00 noon

August

17 th	FINN-AM & FHH Meeting & Potluck	12:00 noon
20 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm

September

17 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
21 st	FINN-AM Potluck & Program	12:00 noon

October

15 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm
19 th	FINN-AM & FHH Potluck & Halloween Party	12:00 noon

November

16 th	FINN-AM & FHH Thanksgiving Dinner	12:00 noon
19 th	FHH Board Meeting	3:00 pm

December

1 st	Eepi Ursin Concert	
21 st	FINN-AM & FHH Potluck & Christmas Party	12:00 noon



The Finnish Heritage House

172 St. George Road / State Route 131, P. O. Box 293, South Thomaston, Maine 04858

Website: www.finnheritage.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/Finnish-Heritage-House-111062928972026/

Officers

President: **Jacqueline Harjula** 207.975.1476
Vice President: **Joanne Nelson**
Secretary: **Mariann Ahola**
Treasurer: **Linda Grant**

Trustees

Fred Webel
Kathleen Anderson
Gary Swanson
Steve Gifford
Anne Little
Kirsti Fish

Newsletter Editor

Fred Webel

Building Committee

Gary Swanson

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Finnish Heritage House to preserve the memory of our Finnish immigrant ancestors who chose a new homeland, came to Midcoastal Maine, and transplanted the seed of the Finnish people to be assimilated within the American dream. In their honor, we pledge to help their descendants in tracing their family roots, as well as promoting closer ties between our two nations.

FOR FINNISH HERITAGE HOUSE MEMBERS

Newsletter deliveries automatically stop 12 months after a membership has expired.

IF you usually receive your newsletter via email, and your membership has expired, you will get your copy via postal mail. If you HAVE received your copy via postal mail check your mailing label to see if your membership has expired, or will be expiring.

Please renew your membership in support of our efforts to preserve the memory of our Finnish immigrant ancestors.

To RENEW your FHH membership (or to JOIN as new member) please complete this form and return, with a check payable to Finnish Heritage House, to FHH, P.O. Box 293, South Thomaston, ME 04858.

Name _____ Renewal ____ New ____

Address _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

I'd prefer 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 Membership (\$10) _____ 5 Year Membership (\$45) _____ Gift \$ _____

The Finn-Am Society of Mid-Coast Maine

P. O. Box 293, South Thomaston, Maine 04858

Officers

President: **Linda Grant**
Vice President: **Anne Little**
Secretary: **Mariann Ahola**
Treasurer: **Scott Hodgkins**

Directors

Barbara Hooper
Edna Montgomery
Anna Silverman
Kirsti Fish
Joan Harjula

Membership Chair

Gloria Dennison

Building Committee

Gary Swanson

All Finn Am Society meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month from March through December at noon at Jura Hall. Meetings include a potluck luncheon, a short meeting and entertainment. Annual dues are \$5.00. All are welcome.

Please remember that your annual **\$5.00** dues are payable annually every **March** and need to be submitted to Finn-Am Society, P.O. Box 293, So. Thomaston, ME 04858. Please make checks payable to:

The Finn-Am Society of Mid-Coast Maine



Finnish Heritage House
Finn-Am Society
P.O. Box 293
South Thomaston, ME 04858