

RAIVA AJA

(THE PIONEER)

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Ahtisaarelle Roosevelt-palkinto ja Hessenin rauhanpalkinto

Suomen presidentti Martti Ahtisaarelle on myönnetty hollantilaisen Roosevelt-instituutin palkinto hänen työstään Namibian itsenäisyyden hyväksi sekä hänen välitystehtävästään Kosovossa.

Roosevelt-instituutti, jonka pääpaikka sijaitsee New Yorkissa, myöntää joka vuosi yhden pääpalkinnon ja neljä pienempää palkintoa henkilöille, jotka ovat merkittävällä tavalla edistäneet yksilöiden vapautta.

Instituutin johtajan Arend de Run mukaan kansainvälinen yhteisö tuntee Ahtisaaren lahjomattomuuden, välittäjän taidot ja voimakkaan luonteen.

Ahtisaari saa myös tämänvuotisen Hessenin rauhanpalkinnon. Palkinto myönnetään Ahtisaaren ansiokkaasta rauhantyöstä Naton ja serbien välillä Kosovon konfliktissa.

Palkinnon myöntäjien mielestä serbijoukkojen vetäytyminen Kosovosta viime vuoden kesäkuussa oli oleellisesti Ahtisaaren puolueettomuuden ja neuvottelutaidon ansiota. Palkinto on 150 000 Suomen markan suuruinen ja se luovutetaan kesäkuun puolivälissä Hessenin valtiopäivillä. (MTV3, STT)

Ulkoasiainvaliokunnan mukaan Itävallan varoitus oli oikea toimi

Presidentti Martti Ahtisaari ja eduskunnan ulkoasiainvaliokunta totesivat viime viikolla yksimielisesti, että EU-maiden Itävallan hallitusratkaisusta antama varoitus oli oikea toimi.

"Jos ei reagoida, viruksesta voi tulla epidemia", valiokunnan puheenjohtaja Liisa Jaakonsaari (sd) kuvasi yhteistä keskustelua. Valiokunta oli Linnassa nykyisen presidentin vieraana viimeistä kertaa. Ahtisaari aikoo Jaakonsaaren mukaan palata Euroopan tilanteeseen myös jäähyväispuheessaan maaliskuun alussa.

Valiokunta kiitti Ahtisaarta siitä, että Suomen kansainvälinen asema on vahvempi kuin koskaan. Suomi istuu päätöksentekijöiden pöydissä. Ahtisaari kertoi valiokunnalle myös omista jatkosuunnitelmistaan. Hän on jo sopinut toiminnasta useissa kansainvälisissä järjestöissä ja säätiöissä. Kotimaassa Suomessa Ahtisaari ilmoitti olevansa valmis tulemaan maaliskuun jälkeen ulkoasiainvaliokunnan tilaisuuksiin ja erilaisiin kansalaiskeskusteluihin. (TS)

Suomi sydänsairauksien kärkimaa

Sydänsairaudet ovat Suomessa edelleen EU:n maiden yleisimpiä. Tuoreen brittitutkimuksen mukaan Irlannissa, Suomessa ja Britanniassa kuolee eniten ihmisiä sydän- ja sepelvaltimosairauksiin verrattuna muihin EU-maihin.

Ranskassa sen sijaan näitä sairauksia on EU:ssa vähiten. Ranskan ohella myös Espanjassa ja Portugalissa on terveellisimmät ruokavaliot - ainakin sydämen kannalta ajateltuna.

Tutkijat ovat huolissaan sydän- ja sepelvaltimotautien yleisyydestä, sillä kyseessä on sairaus, jonka voi estää. Noin kuusi miljoonaa ihmistä kuolee vuosittain erilaisiin sydäntauteihin. (MTV3-Reuters)



Finnrail

The national FinnFest USA executive committee discusses future festival issues during a train ride from Windsor to Toronto January 15 for a meeting with Finn Grand Fest 2000 planners. From left, Nancy Riikonen, Carol Parssinen and Norman Westerberg. More Finn Fest USA news on page 7. FinnFest USA photo



FITCHBURG, MA - Massachusetts Senior Cross Country Ski Races were held at Saima Park on February 12th. Here is a group of skiers on their way. Race results and additional photographs on page 11.

This week in

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RAIVA AJA

- Norvista introduces 'Gem of the Baltic'
- Chicago News

Suomen uutisia

Aho: En palaa entiseen

Keskustan puheenjohtaja Esko Aho ratkaisee tulevaisuudensuunnitelmansa maaliskuun alussa. Aho sanoi viime viikolla eduskunnassa, ettei hän palaa enää entiseen. Ahon mielestä kokemus presidenttiehdokkaana oli jotain selailusta, minkä varassa voi tehdä jotain kokonaan uuttakin.

"En ole ratkaissut mitä teen tulevaisuudessa. Olen samaa mieltä kuin vaali-iltana. Tarvitaan vähän aikaa, ehkä tuollaiset kaksi kolme viikkoa riittää. Suhtaudun ennakkoluottomasti kaikkiin vaihtoehtoihin. Ja voin sanoa että aika mielenkiintoisia tulevaisuudenkuvia olen edessäni näkemässä." (MTV3)

Sosiaaliturvan väärinkäytökset lisääntyneet

Sosiaaliturvan väärinkäytökset ovat lisääntyneet Suomessa viime vuosina. Stakesin selvityksen mukaan viime vuonna tuli ilmi 6 500 väärinkäyttötapausta. Tämän lisäksi arvioidaan noin 19 000 tapauksen jääneen piiloon. Väärin perustein maksettujen etuuksien kokonaissummaksi kertyi näin ollen 125 miljoonaa markkaa.

Väärinkäytöksiä selvittellyt sosiaali- ja terveysministeriön työryhmä ehdottaakin käytännön toimia tilanteen parantamiseksi. Erityisen tärkeänä se pitää eri viranomaisien, kuten Kelan, kuntien sosiaali- ja terveystoimen sekä verohallinnon välisen atk-yhteyden luomista. Myös Kelan, työhallinnon ja työttömyyskassojen atk-yhteys auttaisi tukien väärinkäytösten torjunnassa. (MTV3)

Tuomiojasta ulkoministeri

SDP:n puoluehallitus esittää yksimielisesti uudeksi ulkoministeriksi Erkki Tuomiojaa, joka toimii nykyisin kauppa- ja teollisuusministerinä. Tuomiojan seuraajaksi on siirtymässä nykyinen työministeri Sinikka Mönkäre. Uutena nimenä hallitukseen on nousemassa kansanedustaja Virpa Puisto, 54, joka toimii nyt sosiaalidemokraattisen eduskuntaryhmän varapuheenjohtajana. Turkulainen Puisto on ollut eduskunnan jäsen vuodesta 1987. (STT)

Häkämies toppuuttelee Keskustaa

Sisäministeri Kari Häkämies (kok) varoittaa keskustaa asettumasta porvarillisen yhteistyön johtajan asemaan. Sellainen yhteistyö loppuu lyhyeen, Häkämies sanoo Ylen radiouutisille antamassaan haastattelussa.

Häkämies sanoo Ylen haastattelussa aloittavansa kokoomuksen ja keskustan väliset yhteistyöneuvottelut, joiden hän toivoo vuosien mittaan johtavan yhteiseen porvarilliseen puolueeseen. (SS)

Suomalaiset luottavat talouskasvuun

Suomalaisten luottamus talouskasvuun on yhä vahvistunut. Kuluttajien usko sekä oman että maan talouden kehittymiseen oli viime kuussa selvästi vahvempi kuin vuoden lopulla. Kuluttajien luottamusta mittaava indikaattori oli viime kuussa yli 18 prosenttia korkeampi kuin vuoden lopulla.

Tilastokeskuksen kuluttajabarometrin mukaan 57 prosenttia haastatelluista arvioi, että työttömyys vähenee myös kuluvan vuoden aikana. Myös erilaiset ostoaikeet ovat vahvistuneet. (MTV3)

Porokolareista 20 miljoonan vahingot

Viime vuonna kuoli autojen ja junien alle yli 3 000 poroa. Onnettomuudet aiheuttivat yhteensä noin 20 miljoonan markan vahingot. Useimmissa onnettomuuksissa toisena osapuolena oli auto. Junan alle kuoli noin 300 poroa.

Eniten onnettomuuksia tapahtui hiihtokeskusten lähialueilla sekä Pudasjärven ja Kemijärven seuduilla. (SS)

Halosesta kunniahohtori

Tuleva tasavallan presidentti Tarja Halonen vihitään toukokuussa Helsingin yliopiston oikeustieteellisen tiedekunnan kunniahohtoriksi.

Kunniahohtorin arvon saavat myös oikeuskansleri PaaVo Nikula, asianajaja Jukka Pelttonen, hovioikeudenpresidentti Erkki Rintala, EY-tuomioistuimen tuomari Leif Sevon ja akatemiaprofessori Heikki Ylikangas sekä viisi ulkomaista oikeustieteilijää. (MTV3)

Presidentti Haloselle tulossa matalan profilin esikunta

Presidentti Tarja Haloselle on tulossa matalaa profiilia edustava esikunta. Näin ennakoidaan Halosta lähellä olevissa piireissä, joiden mukaan tuleva presidentti ei nimitä korkean profiilin "kabinettipäällikköä" esikuntaan.

Henkilökunnan päällikkönä linnassa toimii kansliapäällikkö Jaakko Kalela. Toinen adjutantti Mika Pelttonen nousee presidentin ykkösadjutantiksi. Presidentin lehdistöavustajaksi Halonen nimittää Maria Romantschukin. Romantschuk omaa vahvan tiedotus- ja lehdistötaustan mm. Yleisradiosta ja Hufvudstadsbladetista.

Muutoin Halosen esikunta tulee muodostumaan ulko- ja turvallisuuspolitiikan asiantuntijoista sekä ainakin yhdestä yleisemmin yhteiskunnallisista kysymyksistä perillä olevasta asiantuntijasta. Tavoitteena on, että esikunta on myös puoluepoliittisesti monipuolinen. Halonen vieraillee ensin Ruotsissa, sitten Virossa ja Venäjällä vaalien jälkeen. (KS)

Lainarasitus pienentynyt

Kotitalouksien nettovaroista kuluu lainojen hoitoon nykyään huomattavasti vähemmän kuin "hulluina vuosina" eli kymmenkunta vuotta sitten.

"Velallinen hoitaa samalla rahalla nyt paljon suuremman lainan kuin ennen, joten velkaantumisen vaikutuksia on liioiteltu", Aktia-säästöpankin pääekonomisti Timo Tyrväinen painottaa.

Pankkeja valvova Rahoitustarkastus (Rata) on kiinnittänyt huomiota siihen, että pankkien luotonanto on kasvanut viime vuosina voimakkaasti. Rata kehotti vuoden vaihteessa pankeille lähettämässään kirjeessä pankkeja varautumaan tuleviin luottotappioihin "jo nyt".

Rata huomautti, että pankkien uuteen luottosalkkuun sisältyy tällä hetkellä enemmän riskiä kuin mihin pankit ovat kirjanpidossaan yleisesti varautuneet. (HS)

Finnairin lentokoneissa ei vikoja

Finnairin mukaan kaikki sen MD-80- ja DC-9-koneet ovat kunnossa. Finnair on tarkastanut viikonlopun aikana koneitten korkeusvakaajien mekaaniset säätöjärjestelmät, eikä tarkastuksissa ei ole löytynyt huomautettavaa. Syyntiin joutuivat kaikki liikenteessä olevat MD-80- ja DC-9-koneet. Lentokoneitten valmistaja suositti ylimääräistä tarkastusta sen jälkeen kun Alaskan lentoyhtiön kone putosi Yhdysvaltain rannikolla pari viikkoa sitten. Turmassa menehtyi 80 ihmistä. Finnairilla on 24 MD-80-sarjan konetta ja yhdeksän DC-9:ää. (MTV3, STT)

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Kittos lahjoittajille!

Thank you for your donations!

Alvah W. Oinonen

EAST HARWICH, MA - Alvah W. Oinonen, 75, kuoli tammik. 23, 2000 kotonaan.

Hän oli syntynyt Fitchburgissa ja oli Fitchburg High Schoolin kasvatti. Hän oli työskennellyt New England Telephone Co.:n palveluksessa, jään eläkkeelle 1990. Hän oli asunut myös Townsendissa ennen kuin muutti East Harwichiin 1969.

Kaipaamaan jäi puoliso Elaine T. (Dodge) Oinonen, kolme poikaa, Richard E. Oinonen, Sunderland, William J. Oinonen, Merrimack, NH; kuusi lastenlasta; kaksi lastenlasten lasta; sekä sisarusten lapsia.

Hautaaminen toimitettiin hiljaisuudessa.

Wilho Hyväoja

WESTMINSTER, MA - Wilho Hyväoja, 87, 68 Worcester Road, kuoli tammik. 27, 2000 St. Vincent sairaalassa Worcesterissa pitkin sairautensa murtamana.

Hän oli syntynyt 1912 Fitchburgissa Andrew ja Selma (Uusikartano) Hyväojan poikana asuen suurimman osan elämästään siellä ja Westminsterissä.

Hyväoja oli työskennellyt useiden Fitchburgin alueen firmojen talonmiehenä.

Kaipaamaan jäi kaksi läheistä ystävää, Wilho Oinonen ja Lilly H. Hyväoja, kumpikin Gardner; sekä useita serkkuja Suomessa.

Hautaaminen Mount Pleasant hautausmaahan.

HOLDEN, MA - Arne Salo, 82, 300 Lovell Rd., kuoli helmik. 5, 2000 Providence House hoitokodissa Worcesterissa sairautensa seurauksena.

Hän oli syntynyt Worcesterissa Tapani ja Amanda (Hänninen) Salon poikana ja oli asunut 35 vuotta Walthamissa ja 14 vuotta Rutlandissa.

Päästyään Boston School of Practical Art oppilaitoksesta Salo jatkoi opintojaan Pratt Institutessa New York Cityssä. Hän ansaitsi elantonsa kaupallisena taiteilijana ja omisti 35 vuoden ajan oman mainostoin Walthamissa. Eläkkeelle hän jäi 1990.

Myöhemmin edesmennyt pautui vesiväreillä maalaamiseen. Hän opiskeli useita vuosia Worcester Art Museumissa William Griffithsin johdolla. Hän oli osallistunut useisiin FinnFest'n taidenäyttelyihin. Viime vuonna hän sai vastaanottaa stipendin Finlandia Foundation Trustilta maiseamaalaamiseen Suomessa.

Salo oli toisen maailmansodan veteraani ja oli palvellut Afrikassa, Ranskassa ja Saksassa. Hän jatkoi maalaamista ja suunnitteli seinämaalauksen USO:lle Pohjois-Afrikassa. Hänen sota-aikaiset työnsä olivat näytteillä Finlandia Foundationin Bostonin jaostossa 1995.

Arne Salo

Kuolleita

George Malmberg

HOPKINTON, NH - George Malmberg, 82, kuoli tammik. 28, 2000 kotonaan.

Hän oli syntynyt Maynardissa (MA) John A. ja Hanna (Hyytiäinen) Malmbergin poikana. Hopkintoniin hän muutti 1980. Ennen eläkkeelle jäämistä edesmennyt oli työskennellyt Maynardin (MA) United Coop Society Oil Companyn kuorma-autokuskina.

Kaipaamaan jäi puoliso Rauha J. (Newhouse) Malmberg; kaksi poikaa, John A. Malmberg, Canterbury ja George M. Malmberg, Andover, MA; tytär Leah Mullin, Atlanta, GA; ja neljä lastenlasta.

Hautaaminen keväällä Black Water hautausmaahan Hopkintonissa. Maynardin Mission Evangelical Congregational seurakunnan pastori Gary Heikkilä toimittaa siunaamisen.

Eino Hill

WINDSOR LOCKS, CT - Eino Hill, 82, 97 Leslie St., kuoli tammik. 30, 2000 Kettlebrook Care Center'ssä East Windsor'ssa.

Hän oli syntynyt Worcesterissa (MA) Peter ja Mandi (Kangas) Hillin poikana ja oli asunut Brooklinessa (NH) ennen kuin muutti Windsor Locksiin 1955.

Hill oli työskennellyt 37 vuoden ajan myyntipäällikkönä New Britain Machine Co.:ssa, jään eläkkeelle 1984.

Edesmennyt oli toisen maailmansodan veteraani.

Venely ja kalastus olivat hänen harrastuksinaan kesäkuukausina, jolloin hän asui Long Island Soundilla (NY).

Kaipaamaan jäi puoliso Irma (Ojala) Hill; kolme poikaa, Rick Hill, Boca Raton, FL, Roger Hill, Lexington, MA ja Robert Hill, Windsor Locks; ja seitsemän lastenlasta.

Hautaaminen Forest Hill hautausmaahan Fitchburgissa (MA).

Ituja tarjolla

Liisa A. Liedes

(Joh. 6:63) "Henki on se, joka eläväksi tekee; ei liha mitään hyödytä. Ne sanat, jotka minä olen teille puhunut, ovat henki ja elämä."

Jeesus lausui nämä sanat. Nihin voi luottaa.

Jumalan SANA on elävä. Pyhä Henki tekee Jumalan Sanan eläväksi meille ja meissä.

Usein me, jotka uskomme Jeesukseen Kristukseen omakohtaisena Vapahtajana ja elämämme Herrana, luemme Raamattua ikäänkuin se olisi vain kirja, painettu sana.

Emme aina muista, että Jumalan Sana on "Hengen miekka": Pyhä Henki tahtoo ottaa Jumalan Sanan ja tehdä sen eläväksi meille ja

meissä niin, että ELÄMÄS-SÄMME NÄKYVÄ MUUTOS! Ellei Jumalan Sana saa vaikuttaa meissä muuttuvana voimana, silloin se on vain kuollut kirjain.

Joskus meitä - niinsanottuja - "täyden evankeliumin uskovaisia" - syytetään siitä, että me olemme liian vaativia. Me "vaadimme" ihmisiä todistamaan elämällä, että he ovat uskovaisia - jos ovat.

Totta on, että me odotamme jotain todellista itseltämme ja toisilta uskovaisilta. Mutta emme suinkaan vaadi tätä ihmisen luonnolliselta olemukselta - siis vanhalta luonnolta. Tämä olisikin aivan mahdollon vaatimus. Sitä ei voisi kukaan täyttää.

Mutta me emme odotakaan mitään ihmiseltä, vaan odotuksemme keskittyy kokonaan jatkuu seuraavalla sivulla



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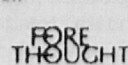
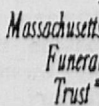
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Allekirjoitukset luovutetaan eduskunnalle huhtikuussa.

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Bethel-seurakunta

Suomenkielinen radiohartaust HYVÄT UUTiset lähetetään joka sunnuntaiamu asemalta WEIM am 1280, Fitchburg, klo 8:45.

Helmikuun hengelliset tilaisuudet joka sunnuntai Elm St. Lähetyskirkossa klo 2 i.p. Pastori Mikko Tervo tulee puhumaan helmik. 27. päivän tilaisuudessa. Kahvitarjoilu. Tervetuloa!

Tiedusteluja seurakunnan toiminnasta voi tehdä soittamalla numeroon 343-9659. Myös niitä, jotka tarvitsevat kyytiä seurakunnan tilaisuuksiin, pyydetään ottamaan yhteys ylläolevan numeron avulla.

Elm St. Lähetysseurakunta

Jumalanpalvelus sunnuntaisin klo 9:30 aamulla. Lasten ja aikuisten pyhäkoulut klo 11:00.

Kuoro tilistaisin klo 6:45 ill. Hartaustilaisuus keskiviikkoin klo 2:00 i.p.

Messiah Lutheran seurakunta

Kuun ensimmäisenä sunnuntaina suomenkielinen jumalanpalvelus klo 8:15 aam.

Perjantaisin klo 1:00 ip. suomenkielinen raamattutunti.

Sunnuntaisin englanninkielinen jumalanpalvelus klo 9:30 aam. Klo 10:30-11:00 seurustelua ja virvokkeita. Klo 11:00 Steve Skorko esittelee "Aid Association for Lutherans" toimintaa. Klo 12:30 ip. Sr. High School-luokkalaisten laskettelu. Klo 3:30 ip. Suomenkielisen naistenliiton kokous.

Stefan Lindfors jatkaa Ego-sarjaansa

Stefan Lindforsin juna ei pysähdy. Juuri nyt aika kuluu Helsingin Kaapelitehtaalla, jossa esitettävän Labra-esityksen ensi-ilta on ovella. Kiire tai ei, hän ehti kuitenkin esittelemään uusia, Arabialle ja Iittalalle suunnittelemaan tuotteita.

Arabialle hän jatkaa pari vuotta sitten aloitettua Ego-sarjaa, johon aiemmin kuului kolmenkokoisia kahvikuppeja. Nyt sarja täydentyy lautasilla, kaatimilla ja viinietikalle tai öljylle tarkoitettulla purkillä.

Lautasia on matalia ja syviä ja kahdenkokoisia. Isompi näyttää silmään jättimäiseltä.

"Ravintolakoko", Lindfors sanoo.

Lindforsin viimeaikainen trendi on materiaalien yhdistäminen. Abaqus-tuolissa yhdistettiin muoviva puuhun, Arabialle valmistetuissa kannellisissa purkeissa muoviyhdisty vitropoliiniin.

"Se on periaatteessa pelkkä muki. Muovinen kansi lähtee napsauttamalla irti ja menee päälle", Lindfors näyttää.

Iittalalle Lindfors suunnitteli juomalasisarjan, Boyn. Jalalliseen lasiin Lindfors on keksinyt omanlaisensa yksityiskohdan. Suusta lasi on pyöreä, mutta muuttuu ellipsin muotoon jalkaa kohti.

"Funktio on siinä, että saat kiinni siitä. Pienenkin naisen käsi saa otteen viskilaista."

Ellipsimuoto on tehty miellyttämään myös silmää, min-

kä se tekee etenkin koboltin-sinisenä versiona.

Kun Lindfors kertoo kevään suunnitelmistaan, vaikuttaa että hänen kalenterissaan täytyy olla enemmän päiviä kuin muiden kalenterissa.

Suurisuuntaisin hanke on New Yorkissa. Puolisentoista vuotta sitten Manhattanilla sijaitsevassa Gershwini-budjettihotellissa julkistettiin Lindforsin suunnittelema julkisivuveistos. Nyt sitä on tarkoitus laajentaa, tai oikeastaan tehdä uusi veistos.

"Siitä tulee uusi duuni, 20-30 metriä korkea veistos-installaatio", Lindfors sanoo.

Muutakin New Yorkissa tapahtuu lähitulevaisuudessa, mutta Lindfors ei vielä halua kertoa näistä uusista hankkeista sen tarkemmin.

"Yksi semmoinen isompi juttu on luvassa."

Töölönlahden taidepuutarhaan Lindforsilta on tilattu kesäksi työ, jota hän kuvaa saaristomaamerkin ja ohjusen risteytykseksi, kymmenen metriä korkeaksi. Kevääksi on tulossa myös kankaita Marimekolle.

Milanon huonekalumessujen aikana hänellä on Milanossa näytetty tuotannostaan. Stellä saa myös viralisen maailman ensi-iltansa hänen P.O. Korhoselle suunnitteleman Abaqus-tuoli, jonka yksi versio nähtiin Suomessa Habitaren yhteydessä syksyllä.

HANNU PÖPPÖNEN
(HS)

ITUJA... jatkoa edellisiltä

naan Pyhän Hengen toimintaan ihmisessä. Tätä toimintaa innolla ja kiitollisuudella odotetaan ja seurataan. Jos Pyhä Henki hallitsee ihmisen ajatusmaailmaa, ihmisen sanoja ja ihmisen käytöstä, niin silloin todella tapahtuu valtavia asioita hänen sisäisessä ja ulkoisessa elämässään.

Pyhä Henki muuttaa ihmistä Jumalan Sanan kautta yhä lisääntyvään Kristuksen kaltaisuuteen. Sana ilmoittaa sen: "Mutta me kaikki, jotka peittämättömin kasvoin katselemme Herran kirkkautta kuin kuvastimesta, muutomme saman kuvan kaltaiseksi kirkkaudesta kirkkauteen, niinkuin muuttaa Herra, joka on Henki."

Tässä on kysymys pyhitetyistä elämästä. Sentähden on välttämätöntä, että ihminen UDESTISYNTYY YLHÄLTÄ Pyhän Hengen ja Jumalan sanan kautta ennenkuin hän psäee edes alkuunkaan pyhityksen tiellä.

Koska Jumalan Sana on elävä sana, on tärkeää, että Jumalan lapsi "syö" tätä sanaa ravinnokseen, vahvistukseksi, kasvaakseen. Kun meidän ajatusmaailmamme on täynnä Jumalan Sanaa, sinne ei mahdu kaikki se roska, jota sielunvihollinen, maailma ja oma liha haluavat sinne syyttää.

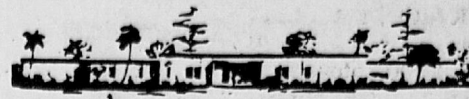
Jeesuksen kalliilla VERELÄ puhdistettu sydän säilyy

puhtaana. Jos meidän sydämemme on puhdas, niin kaikki meidän sanamme (se mitä me päivittäin puhumme) on myöskin puhdasta. Meidän tekemme ja käytöksemme ovat Jumalalle otollisia ja (toivon mukaan) ihmisille hyödyllisiä. Sillä mitä meidän sisimmässämme on, sitä me puhumme. Sen mukaan me toimimme. "Sydämen kylläydestä suu puhuu..." (Mat. 12:34) Jos me haluamme tulla tuntemaan itsemme paremmin, meidän tulee vain kuunnella itseämme, mitä me puhumme... Katsella itseämme, kuinka me käyttäydymme...

Koska Jumalan Sana on elävä, se tuottaa ELÄMÄÄ... Samoin, sielunvihollisen, maailman ja oman lihan sana tuottaa KUOLEMAA. Meidän kieleemme on instrumentti, joka välittää joko elämää tai kuolemaa... Ystävä, mitä sinun kielestäsi välittää?

Jumala odottaa omiltaan pyhitettyä elämää. Emme voi olla SALAA USKOVAISIA. Meidän sanamme, meidän tekemme, meidän elämämme paljastaa meidät, joko tahdomme sitä tai ei!

Eikö olekin parasta, että me luovutamme kaiken hallinnan ja johdatuksen elämässämme Jeesukselle Kristukselle. Hänen Pyhä Henkensä meissä saa aikaan Jumalalle otollisia ajatuksia, sanoja ja tekoja.



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10. helmikuuta

Meillä on täällä Floridassa ollut kovin pilvistä (4. p:nä). Aivan kuin aurinko olisi pelännyt näitä valtavia turistijoukkoja, joita täällä vieraillee. Mutta kuitenkin sää tiedotus lupasi viikonlopun kaunista ja aurinkoisista säästä. Se siitä. Lepokodilla aloitettiin perjantai taas aamuvoimistelulla ja lounaan jälkeen pelattiin bingoa. Iltapäivällä pidimme johtajattaremmen Riitta Huttusen lähtijäistilaisuuden. Meillä kaikilla oli haikea olo, sillä jätimme kaipaamaan hyvää ystävää. Hän kyllä lupasi tulla käymään ja verestämään vanhoja muistoja ja katsomaan meitä lepokotilaisia.

Reino oli valmistanut suussa sulavan mansikkakakun ja talo oli muistanut lahjalla. Kiitos, Riitta kaikesta ja paljon onnea tulevaisuudellesi!

Lauantai-iltapäivällä soittivat musiikkia Reino Kukka-maa, Timo Kuparinen sekä Timon tytär Tiina. Kiitos taas kerran heille.

Maanantaina taas aloitimme aamuhartaudella ja sen jälkeen voimisteltiin melko suurella joukolla. Päivällä katsottiin jännittävä video Afrikan safarista ja sen eläimistä. Kahvituokiossa soitti Charlie ja Lydia lauloi kauniita lauluja. Kiitoksia.

Tilistaamu valkeni satelise-

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Monin tervetsein
JUHANI

*The Finnish-American***RAIVAAJA****Blackout Under Northern Lights***Continues from
previous issue***Written by E.A. Pulli
Translated by Sävel Syrjälä**

In this manner three weeks passed - when on Christmas Eve a new experience was suffered by the people. The first long-range shelling by the enemy was experienced in old Viipuri!

From then on, life in Viipuri went back to the days of Lord Torkel. The city was encircled as in olden times. Bombs rained down constantly. The city appeared to be going to destruction, stone by stone.

In February air attacks became even more intense. Waves of as many as 100 bombers flew over the city at times. While many of them were shot down in air combat and by anti-aircraft guns, they were able to destroy the city systematically, street by street, house by house. Fires raged with greater intensity. The fire fighters made superhuman efforts but its task was hopeless...

Then the people of Viipuri were forced to acknowledge that they must leave the city. It was emptied of all civilians. An endless line of refugees filled the roads leading to the west and north. On foot, by sled, in automobiles, trains, the procession streamed on - all who were not needed for the defense of the city or for an attempt to save it - away from the burning and collapsing old city women, children, the aged - toward an unknown future...

The road to the west crossed the bridge at Linnansilta. It had been damaged by shelling some time in February. But severe weather had frozen the Bay and although bombs had fallen, leaving huge holes in the ice, it was safe to cross over to the road leading to Tienhaara, Hovimaa and Nurmi - to the ancient road which leads from Viipuri to Turku.

Those who followed the road in the bitter cold of a subnormal winter, leaving their homes behind, say that among the most gallant sights to be seen in burning Viipuri was that of the waving blue and white flag of Finland high up on the tower of the old castle. Like a magnet it riveted their gaze on the flag, and from the streaming line of refugees could be heard restrained cries: "Farewell... till we meet again!"

This time the Russian "savior" did not capture Viipuri with arms.

Official Soviet sources have deliberately falsified the facts. Viipuri, itself, remained uncaptured despite the intensive

drive to take it. The city was not ceded to the enemy until after the peace treaty had been signed, according to the terms dictated. The Russians reached certain suburbs after repeated violent attacks but had never entered the city proper. Defenders, paying the price of their defense in blood, hung on right up to the very last minute of the cessation of hostilities in Viipuri.

The havoc was horrible. Finnish sources describing the destruction of Viipuri, now in the hands of the Russians, reveal that entire sections of this large city have been wiped out and demolished. Particularly on the eastern side of Braahi Street and the area surrounding the historic Red fountain is in utter ruin. The museum opposite the old castle, the building of the old Andrea Hotel are rubble, along with the bronze statue of proud Lord Torkel.

The old castle is practically undamaged but the encircling wall is very badly crumbled, and the roofs of the outer buildings of the castle have been burned. The ancient house of the commander-in-chief of the castle, between the bridge and the main wall, was burned down.

Destruction around the marketplace is frightful and along the beautiful park at Torkel Street not a single undamaged house is to be seen! The cozy frame homes between the railroad station and Karjaportti Street have completely disappeared, as has the popular Espilä Restaurant. Of the city's newer buildings, notable for their modern architecture, the most famous was the library - that, too, is now a ruined heap.

The masters of Viipuri are again Russian.

They are trying to strike new life among the ruins and inform the world intermittently that once again in old Viipuri there is "life and activity," how joyous music and voices echo in the former palatial homes of the "bourgeoisie," how industrious Russian builders vie with one another to repair the traces of the destruction, how "class distinction" has been wiped out in the railroad station, and how case loads of "cultural" literature arrive from Leningrad for the enlightenment of the happy and industrious new inhabitants of Viipuri.

The new masters have announced they are rebuilding from the ruins "a new, free and happy Viipuri."

They have the right to do it. They are the present guardians of the city.

But some 80,000 true inhabitants of Viipuri who evacuated to make way for the new masters and who, as refugees are steadfastly trying to find new homes for themselves elsewhere in Finland, raise a mighty protest to the baseless stories circulated to the world by the Russians, that the retreating Finnish defenders burned and destroyed the city!

That is a contemptible lie - among so many others!

The tragedy of Viipuri was the work of those whose "socialism" and "new morale" saw nothing criminal in subjecting the historic city and its civilian population to constant, terrorizing aerial bombardment and to the shock of long-range shelling.

The latest reports relate that the Russians intend to erect opposite the ancient castle on the hill at Tervaniemi, the bronze statue that in 1918 had to make way for the statue representing the democratic nation of Finland.

Once again to be placed on its former site will be the statue of Peter the Great!

History ironically repeats itself. But what must the tyrannical Russian Tshinovs and traitors be thinking as they glide about the dungeons of the old Viipuri castle. Those who are now lugging the figure of Peter the Great to the highest place of honor wear on their hats the bright, red insignia of Bolshevism...!

In 1913 the Russian conquerors of Tsarist days erected on the hill at Tervaniemi the statue of the blood-thirsty Tsar Peter the Great, those Russian haters of Finland, who could not walk by the statue of Lord Torkel in the marketplace without spitting.

In October, 1917, when the Bolsheviks staged a *coup d'état* in Petrograd, their Viipuri supporters threw to their death from the castle bridge into the sea large numbers of those hated persecutors - Russian agents and officers - who had most enthusiastically taken part in the erection of the statue of Peter the Great.

I am personally acquainted with this phase of history, for while still a school boy, I assisted my father, a diver, to bring up the mutilated, beaten bodies of these victims from the bottom of the Bay of Viipuri at the request of their widows and on behalf of the

city.

Now, these same Bolsheviks, having become present masters of Viipuri, hasten to erect to his former glory the statue commemorating their ancient persecutor!

The present masters of the Kremlin contend that they are conscientiously following the path laid down by the Bolshevik fathers, who tore down the statues of the tyrannical Tsars and burned to ashes the remains of the last Romanov in an abandoned well in Siberia...

CHAPTER 10**Why this peace...?**

In the early days of March, 1940, the whole world was taken by surprise when news was flashed that March 7 editions of Scandinavian papers carried a report of peace negotiations begun between the Soviet Union and Finland. This news, which neither side would confirm, became more insistent each day. At the same time communiqués continued to be released of desperate fighting, particularly in the southwestern sector of the Isthmus, then, finally, on the mainland, at the outskirts of Viipuri.

On March 13, 1940, a message was flashed around the world:

Peace treaty between Finland and Soviet Union signed!

The first impression was one of great relief. The flow of human blood was stopped in the far North and the seemingly hopeless struggle of a small nation had ended.

Then, hastily, with great concern for the loser: What about peace terms?

Of these, too, word was soon received.

Throughout 105 days of warfare, not having conquered one single Finnish city, the enemy now demanded as its war booty old Viipuri, Finland's second largest city. In addition, Sortavala and Käkisalme, a large district on the west and north of Viipuri, besides territory around Lake Ladoga. In the treaty this area demanded by Russia was provided for, but only later, would the new boundary be definitely determined.

Located in the territory seized by Russia is one of Finland's greatest industrial centers (lumber and its allied industries), fertile agricultural lands, thickly populated centers, railroads, and a great part of Saimaa Canal that had been vastly improved in recent years. And that most important bone of contention

Russia now obtained the leasing of Hango Peninsula, giving her the right to build a military base on the Finnish peninsula.

The world realized that although having more than sufficient land for itself, Russia had decided without compunction to use this great opportunity to steal land and national wealth from a country fifty times smaller, which the people of the little country had so arduously built for themselves. The Russian demands could never have had anything to do with the much-talked-of safety and security of Leningrad!

The press of the world covered reams of paper in a discussion of this ending to the Russo-Finnish War. A srewd reader surely must have noticed that in some respects there seemed to be a broader international aspect to it. He could interpret the peace as a victory not only for Stalin but a victory, too, for his axis partner, Hitler, enemy of England and France.

Disregarding the tremendous cost the American press sent its own competent correspondents to cover the progress of the invasion of Finland. It was a press whose sympathies were unequivocally favorable to the people of the little country who were fighting a mortal combat.

With a few exceptions, it was fair to Finland in the time of the crushing outcome, and correctly understood the compelling reasons for the treaty.

An American newspaperman, Leland Stowe, who was able to portray to millions of readers the tragedy of the North in an unforgettable manner, one of the most competent and independent critics among the newspapermen in Finland whose news stories occasionally contained pungent criticisms, cabled from Helsinki on March 15:

"At ten o'clock on the morning of the Ides of March and the first anniversary of the day when German troops marched into Prague, Russia's soldiers began their march of occupation into the Finnish territory which they never conquered and under conditions equally disastrous for the future of democracy in dictator-ridden Europe.

"Long columns of Russian infantry, wearing their red-starred helmets and soiled olive-drab uniforms, started moving northward on the Karelian Isthmus and northeast of Lake Ladoga precisely as Peter the Great's legions

turn to **BLACKOUT** page 12



FinnFest USA update

BELLEVUE, WA - At its meeting during FinnFest USA '99 in Seattle last July, the national board of directors faced a new and unexpected situation.

Robert (Bob) Selvala, who had served as president and secretary of FinnFest USA, Inc. since its beginning in 1983 had been incapacitated by a very serious illness. Very suddenly, in June doctors had to remove a huge and vicious brain tumor. All did not come out, and Bob has struggled through a number of treatment attempts. With his Finnish *sisu* he is hanging in there, and asked us to send you greetings from him and his family.

We urge you to pray for Bob and send him your best wishes (636 - 16th Street SE, Owatonna, MN 55060). But please do not send or call him anything concerning FinnFest USA or FinnGrandFest 2000, it really upsets him. Direct your inquiries to the addresses shown below.

Seattle was not the time to elect a successor president so the board opted for an interim structure with an executive committee comprising of Norman Westerberg and Carol Parssinen as co-chairs of the board and Nancy Riikonen as executive secretary. All of the six other directors of the board have also stepped up their involvement, taking on tasks of serving on committees for future festivals, as membership and fundraising chairs.

A new corporate mailing address was quickly established as FinnFest USA, Inc., PO Box 40359, Bellevue, WA 98015, from which mail is then forwarded to proper recipients. Towards the end of 1999 the board accepted a bid from the Delaware Valley Finns to arrange the festival in the year 2001.

The executive committee met during January 14-16 at the current home of Carol Parssinen near Detroit (MI). In addition to reviewing progress during the six months since Seattle, preparations were started on issues needing action by the full board at its meetings in July in Toronto, as well by the annual membership meeting there.

The ever changing addresses of Finnish-American organizations have now been checked, and an informational letter with dues statements for 2000 will be mailed during February to recent and prospective member organizations. The agenda and credential forms for the annual meeting (which will take place on Thursday, July 14, at 9:00 a.m. at the FGF2000 festival site) will be mailed to paid members in early May.

We are all looking forward to the FinnGrandFest 2000 in Toronto during July 13-16, 2000, with events centered at Mel Lastman Square in North York. As part of our executive committee meeting we made a visit to Toronto to meet with FGF2000 chairman Hans Myrskog and his key committee persons on January 15.

The facilities are impressive and the program well planned. We had a chance to make a final review of the registration package before it went to print (I received mine in the mail on February 4.) If you have not received a registration form soon, you should request one by calling (toll free) 1-888-4763466 in Toronto, or by writing to FGF2000 at 67 Pennala Street, Sudbury ON, Canada P3G 1K2. The website www.finngrandfest.org also gives useful information.

The committee for FinnFest USA 2001 has made tremendous progress in a short time and already musters over forty key volunteers, that have held many meetings in the Philadelphia area under the leadership of president Ari Aho and vice president Walter Kinzinger.

The committee is very close to announce the date and site of the festival in 2001. [July 26-29, 2001 at Villanova University, Philadelphia]. The theme is "Finnish-American Odyssey from 1638 to 21st Century". It will be exciting to be back in the territory of the successful FinnFest USA '88. If you wish to volunteer or find early information contact: FinnFest USA 2001, P.O. Box 3722, Cherry Hill, NJ 08034.

Bob Selvala's dedicated efforts during many years will continue with everyone's combined support. We wish you well, and see you in Toronto in July.

Norman Westerberg
Co-Chair of the board
FinnFest USA
Tel (425) 451-3983
e-mail: enormw@aol.com

Yli-Mäyry exhibition opens Saturday

NEW YORK CITY - An exhibition of paintings by Soile Yli-Mäyry of Finland will open this Saturday at the Amos Eno Gallery, fourth floor, 594 Broadway (between Houston and Spring Streets).

There will be a reception with the artist from 4 to 6 p.m., and Consul General Maija Lähteenmäki is scheduled to open the show.

The exhibition will run through March 9. Regular gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday. For more information, call 212-226-5342.

News from Finland

Confidence in the economy remains firm

Consumers' faith in the economy is still very strong, according to the consumer barometer of Statistics Finland, released last week. Forecasts of their personal economic future as well as that of the country as a whole have improved over the past three months.

In January close to 40 percent of consumers felt optimistic about the continued improvement of the economic situation this year. Every third consumer believes that their own financial situation will improve, and more than 50 percent of Finns are convinced that unemployment will decline further over the next 12 months. (HS)

SDP and Centre Party gain support

Finland's co-ruling Social Democrats and the main opposition Centre Party have both gained voter support in February, a new opinion poll showed last week.

The Social Democrats had support of 25.8 percent in February, climbing 2.3 percent from January, the survey by polling agency Taloustutkimus for national broadcaster YLE radio news showed.

Support for opposition leader and defeated presidential candidate Esko Aho's Centre Party was up 4.6 percent to 24.4 percent, making it the second most popular before Finance Minister Sauli Niinistö's Conservatives, who fell 3.3 percent to 20.2 percent. (STT)

Finnish rock group HIM at the top of German album charts

The Finnish rock group HIM has become one of the hottest groups in Germany. The group's album *Razorblade Romance* rose straight to the top of the country's charts, selling 150,000 copies and turning gold in its first week.

HIM has also maintained the lead on the German singles charts with the hit *Join Me In Death*. The single, which has remained at No.1 for three weeks, has shifted 360,000 copies in Germany.

This is no mean feat for the Helsinki group, as the German music market is a tough one to crack, following the United States and Japan. Aside from Germany, *Razorblade Romance* has been released in Finland, Austria, and Switzerland. Plans to launch the album in other countries will come into effect once an international version featuring extra tracks comes out in March. The next countries to import the Finnish craze will be Scandinavia, Spain and Italy.

Needless to say HIM has been overwhelmingly successful at home, holding first place on all the charts and selling 30,000 copies of the new album weekly. (HS)

Häkämies: National Coalition and Centre Party should mend fences

According to Kari Häkämies, Minister of the Interior in Finland's rainbow coalition government, the National Coalition Party (to which he belongs) and the opposition Centre Party should put aside their differences and discuss cooperation. Häkämies was recently the only NCP minister to give formal support to the Centre Party Chairman Esko Aho in the presidential elections. (HS)

Tuomioja named Foreign Minister

Finland's ruling Social Democrats (SDP) chose Industry Minister Erkki Tuomioja to succeed president-elect Tarja Halonen as foreign minister. Halonen was elected Finland's first woman president by a narrow margin



Erkki Tuomioja

and will be inaugurated on March 1.

SDP officials said Labor Minister Sinikka Mönkkäre would replace Tuomioja at the industry ministry, while SDP parliamentarian Virpa Puisto would take the labor portfolio. The cabinet changes will take effect on February 25.

Like Halonen, Tuomioja is a former 1960s radical and a leader of the left-wing in the SDP. The son of a former ambassador to Britain, Tuomioja speaks fluent English, but has limited foreign policy experience. (STT)

Defense forces seek more space for training grounds and firing ranges

Finland's defense forces have run up against a problem caused by improved weapons technology and firepower. They are running out of space in their training grounds and artillery ranges, as the range of the big guns and grenade-launchers has made the present areas rather cramped. Rocket-launchers with a range of up to 20 kilometres will be in use for training purposes from this year, further adding to the difficulties.

Tree harvesters are currently felling timber in one area used by the Kainuu Brigade in Eastern Finland to expand the training grounds by around 2,000 hectares. The Finnish defense forces have a total of 80 training grounds and artillery firing ranges for conscripts and reservists, with around a score of these inside actual garrison areas. The total land-area involved is 260,000 hectares. (HS)

Bits and pieces

Finnish companies will have to spend roughly up to five billion markkas to clean up the 20,000 different land areas that are suspected of being polluted. The costs will be spread out over several years or even decades, as only parts of the polluted areas need urgent action. (TS)

During the next seven years Finland's northern and eastern regions, which are classified as belonging to a group of Europe's poorest areas, are to receive EU subsidies to help develop their economies. The goal is to create thousands of new companies and around 75,000 new jobs. (HS)

Finnish ferry operators Silja Line and Viking Line are competing for a stake in the Estonian shipping company Hansatee, which operates ferries between Helsinki and Tallinn under the company name Tallink. (HS)

The Finnish small tech equity boom shows no signs of relenting as hundreds of people earlier this week queued up for software company BasWare's shares in the company's IPO at brokerage Evli. BasWare had net sales of 27 million markkas in 1998. (HS)

Chicago News

by Bob Kujanpaa

Toini Laakso was presented with the Suomi Seura's Silver Award at the January meeting of the Chicagoland Finnladies. The commendation was given for her many years of promoting Finnish culture in the United States. Toini is a charter member of the Finnladies. Congratulations, Toini!

Donald Taskinen, 46, son of the late Wanda and Reino Taskinen, passed away January 12. Memorial services were held at the Tohle Funeral Home in Chicago on January 14.

The Finlandia Foundation will hold its annual meeting March 24-26 at McDonald University in Oakbrook. The Finnish-American Society of the Midwest board of directors will meet March 25 at the same location.

Olli Saarela's *Rukajärven Tie* was shown February 4 as Finland's entry in the School of the Art Institute's European Union Film Festival. The film, a graphic, World War

II drama was one of the top box office successes last year in Finland.

Get well wishes to Fred Koski who is recuperating after surgery in late January.

Kaarina Koskenalusta and Peter McMenamin were among the fifty couples listed by Sherren Leigh of *Today's Chicago Woman* as dynamic duos that make the city's social scene so vibrant.

Former Chicagoan, Arthur Hillson, passed away December 18, 1999, in Amasa (MI). He was 85. He was born October 31, 1914 in Amasa, the son of John and Wilhelmina (Tynnismaa) Hillson. He worked at the Bell and Howell Company in Chicago for many years. He retired to Amasa in 1976. Funeral services were held at the Plowe Funeral Home in Crystal Falls (MI), on December 21 with the Rev. Thomas Mackey officiating. Burial will be in the Hematite Cemetery in Amasa in the spring.

Sign up for Winter Senior Olympics

LAKE PLACID, NY - The National Senior Games Association in conjunction with the Adirondack Sports Commission and Olympic Regional Development Authority is hosting the inaugural Senior Winter Olympic Games. The events are scheduled for Feb. 28-Mar. 3, 2000, and include alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, curling, ice hockey and snow shoeing.

By way of special arrangement with Greg Moore, senior manager of the games, the registration opportunity has been extended if registration is made by telephone only to Greg Moore, 225-925-5678. Registration by mail is closed.

Also a \$50 discount is being offered to senior athletes who register by phone. The discounted, total cost of event participation is \$170.

For Nordic events this total cost gives racers eligibility for all Nordic races. The men's races include 10K classic and freestyle on Feb. 28; 15K classic and freestyle on Feb. 29 and a men's 30K freestyle or 20K for 60 years and older on Friday, March 3.

The women's Nordic races are: 5K classic & freestyle on Feb. 28; 10K classic and freestyle on March 1 and a 20K

freestyle on March 3.

Check-in for the games will be located at the Lussi Pavilion, the Olympic Center, in Lake Placid Village, not at Mt. Van Hovenberg. All athletes must have a proof of age with a photo identification.

The total cost package also includes one day of Nordic skiing at Mt. Van Hovenberg, March 2 is an open day for skiing, one bobsled ride at Mt. Van Hovenberg, admission to the Olympic museum, public skating on the speed skating oval under lights at night with music and elevation ride to the top of an Olympic ski jump. Standing atop of the Olympic jump one experiences the amazing height and incredible challenge of the ski jumper.

This writer skied at Van Hovenberg two weekends ago. The snow coverage and skiing conditions were excellent.

When one considers the total experience being offered at this world-class, 1980 Olympic site, the offer is very attractive and a wonderful opportunity for senior athletes to compete at an Olympic facility.

The Olympic aura and history is valued and maintained at all the facilities of Lake

Placid. The scenery, especially in winter, is majestic with the grandeur of Whiteface Mountain. Mt. Van Hovenberg boasts of 50 kilometers of trails and is amidst the high peaks region of the Adirondacks with Mt. Marcy, the highest peak able to be viewed from the Adirondack Loj road only two miles from Mt. Van Hovenberg.

The village itself has many fine dining establishments, gift shops and a large variety of lodging accommodations. The 1980 Olympic arena is always open and a must stop. In this arena the miracle of Gold took place in 1980 when the USA hockey team defeated the team from the former Soviet Union.

For lodging arrangements you may call toll free to 800-44-PLACID ext. 109. The rates range from \$53 single, three nights minimum, at the Ramada Inn to mid 200s in the luxurious Mirror Lake Inn. Their is sufficient lodging for all athletes.

Nordic skiing is an important part of our Finnish sport culture. Many of our skiing athletes are enjoying their senior years and no doubt would have a good standing in the Games. This is the inaugural Senior Olympic Winter Games and it would be wonderful to see Finnish Americans capture the medals and make Senior Olympic history.

Again, extended discounted registration is only through Greg Moore, 225-925-5678.

Paul Oinonen

Political ad

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Finnish Center at Saima Park

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In her book, Irja Timonen Wenstrom, now of Royal Palm Beach (FL), writes about her youth in the 1920s and '30s. Her recollections include life in:

- Jersey City, New Jersey
- Connecticut for summer vacations
- Manhattan, the Bronx, Brooklyn (where the author was "Miss Finntown 1939")

soft cover, 193 pages

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**Finn Grand
Fest 2000
performers**

TORONTO - Finn Grand Fest 2000, scheduled for July 13-16 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, will be a grand celebration for Americans, Canadians and native Finns.

There will be something to interest everyone.

Headline Performers

JUKKA KUOPPAMÄKI - In the cavalcade of other artists and performers at Finn Grand Fest 2000, we will be featuring one of the most famous singers and songwriters of Finland, Jukka Kuoppamäki. His music, including "Sininen ja valkoinen" (Blue and White) and "Juuret Suomessa" (Roots in Finland), has touched our hearts deeply over the last 30 years.

MYLLÄRIT is a brisk, acoustic vocal/instrumental group from Petrozavodsk, the Republic of Karelia. The Finnish "Uusi Kansanmusiikki" (New Folk Music) has characterized them as a phenomenon of

next page

Chicago, IL

**Eero Saarinen:
Between Earth & Sky**

An exhibition, "Eero Saarinen: Between Earth & Sky," will be at the Graham Foundation, 4 West Burton Place, from March 22 to May 4.

It features over 30 images by Balthus Korab who, as part of Saarinen's design team, pioneered the photographic interpretation of the design process. The designs of the TWA Terminal at JFK in New York and subsequently Dulles Airport in Chantilly, Virginia - complex three-dimensional schemes which required the understanding and collaboration of engineers and builders - benefited from innovative, large scale models in their design development and detailing.

The exhibit is open Monday - Thursday 9 am. to 4 p.m. For more information, 312-787-4071.

**MAKE PLANS NOW TO
ATTEND FINN-FUNN
WEEKEND**

The weekend of November 3-5, 2000, has been set for the eighth annual Finn-Funn Weekend.

This annual gathering of Finns and friends of Finns has been gaining momentum each year and has become a social highlight for many. Information on the site and pricing will be in the mail within the next month; but in the meantime, make sure that you have the date marked on your calendar.

If you have not attended one of these fun weekends and wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Anita Smiley, 42 Benjamin Road, Preston CT 06365 or call at 860-889-7820. FAHS

from previous page

new wave Karelian folk music which makes modern music based on traditional songs and tunes.

The group strives to unite the multilingual musical traditions of the Republic of Karelia in their highly original show. Humor and cheerfulness prevail at every performance, although their musical range also includes sentimental instrumental numbers and serious ballads.

Myllärit was founded in 1992 and since then has travelled worldwide and in their native Karelia. In Finland, Myllärit has successfully performed at many music festivals. Myllärit are also frequent guests on Karelian TV. You can learn more about them on their website: www.onego.ru/myllarit.

FAARTI - A top traditional folkdance group in Finland, well known at the Kaustinen Folk Music Festival: "the sound of the kantele is part of a northern nation's collective

turn to PERFORMERS page 10

Littleton, MA

Kalevala Day

Kalevala Day will be celebrated by the Ladies and Knights of Kaleva on Sunday, February 27th at 2 p.m. at Fort Pond. There will be a special program and refreshments.

Another Finnish holiday will be celebrated on Saturday, March 18th with a fun St. Urho's celebration at Fort Pond. It is also sponsored by the Ladies and Knights of Kaleva.

The Kalevaiset Lodge is located a short distance from the West Acton, Littleton exit off Route 2. Take Newtowne Road heading towards Littleton; then turn right at the double stone markers. The Lodge is handicapped accessible. There is ample free parking. For information, please call 978-263-2526.

Susan Alatalo

Chicago, IL

**Osmo Vänskä to conduct
Chicago Symphony**

The program will include Sibelius' Tapiola, Op. 112 when Osmo Vänskä conducts the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on February 17 (8 p.m.), February 18 (1:30 p.m.), February 19 (8 p.m.) and February 22 (7:30 p.m.). Tickets are available by calling 312-294-3000.

Pittsburgh, PA

**Märja Kanervo's
Installation work**

From February 18 to April 16 Pittsburgh Center for the Arts will be presenting "Intimate Excavation by Finnish Artist in Residence."

For more info, call 412-361-0873.



NEW HORIZONS

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**Finnish Heritage Tour**

From: \$1795⁰⁰ /dbl

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Return

June 28, '00 (New York, Boston)
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A day tour to Tallin/Estonia

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**Call for more details
617-471-0066**

Kalenteri**CALIFORNIA**

- Mar. 4 - Finnish American Chamber of Commerce annual meeting, San Diego Yacht Club, San Diego. Speaker: Consul General Maria Serenius of Los Angeles. Entertainment by Mikko Koski. For more info: 619-459-6245.
- Mar. 5 - Finnish film *Kuningasjätkä (A Summer by the River)*, Fernda Films, 1997, Drama, 1 hr 25 min, directed by Markku Pölonen, 2:30 pm, Brotherhood Hall, 1970 Chestnut St, Berkeley. In Finnish, no subtitles. For more info: 510-849-0725.

COLORADO

- Feb. 26 - Kalevala Dinner & Celebration, 6 pm, Doubletree Inn, Denver. Children's menu available. Special guest Consul General Maria Serenius of Los Angeles. Entertainment by Mikko Koski. For more info: 303-697-4825. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation of Colorado.
- Mar. 16 - St Urho's Day, 6 pm, Clancy's Bar, Lakewood. Buffet & cash bar. For more info: 303-697-4825. Sponsored by Finlandia Foundation of Colorado.

CONNECTICUT

- Mar. 5 - Finnish American Heritage Society membership meeting, 1:30 pm, Finnish Hall, 76 N Canterbury Rd (Rt 169), Canterbury. Coffee 12:30 pm.
- Mar. 19 - FAHS St Urho's day mystery ride & dinner, 1 pm, Finnish Hall, Canterbury.
- Mar. 25 - Genealogy workshop led by FAHS member Paul Harmon, 10 am, Finnish Hall, Canterbury. Size is limited to 10 people. For more info & to register, 860-889-7820 or smileys.place@juno.com or paul888@aol.com

FLORIDA

- Mar. 1 - Membership meeting & coffee, 1 pm, Finnish American Club, 6010 Delaware Ave, New Port Richey.
- Mar. 18 - St Urho's Day Mojaka Dinner, Program & Dance, 6 pm, Finnish American Club, New Port Richey. Advance tickets required: 849-6349, 848-0622 or 942-3916.
- Mar. 30 - Fashion show & luncheon, 12 noon, Finnish American Club, New Port Richey. Advance tickets required.

MAINE

- Feb. 20 - Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine monthly meeting, 2 pm, Heritage Center, Maple St, West Paris. Program to be announced.

MASSACHUSETTS

- Feb. 19 - Finnish-American Society of Cape Cod monthly meeting, 12 noon, West Barnstable Community Building, Rt 149, West Barnstable.
- Feb. 20 - Citizen's Cross Country Ski Races, 11 am, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Scott Rd, Fitchburg. Registration starts at 10 am. For more info: 978-386-7040, 978-582-4201 or 508-829-5181.
- Feb. 26 - Dinner Dance, 2-6 pm, Viking Club, Braintree. Music by Nils Lundin. Tickets: 781-848-3576.
- Feb. 26 - New England Suomi-koulu, 10 am-12 noon, Waldorf School, 739 Mass Ave, Lexington.
- Feb. 27 - Kalevala Day program, 1 pm, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg. Speaker: Tuure Tenander.
- Feb. 27 - Kalevala Day celebration, 2 pm, Kalevaiset Lodge, Fort Pond, Littleton. Sponsored by Ladies & Knights of Kaleva.
- Feb. 27 - Finlandia Foundation Boston Chapter Kalevala meeting, 3 pm, St Camillus Parish, 1175 Concord Tpke, Arlington. Performance by Diane Jarvi, Finlandia Foundation

Performer of the Year.

- Mar. 3 - Supper & dance, Viking Club, Braintree. Supper 6:30-8 pm; dancing to 11:30 to music by Nils Lundin Orchestra.
- Mar. 4 - Dance, 7:30-11:30 pm, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg. Music by Dori Wells Duo.
- Mar. 5 - New England Suomi-koulu Laskiainen, 3-5 pm, Arlington.
- Mar. 6 - Citizen's Cross Country Ski Races, 11 am, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg.
- Mar. 7 - Finnish Golden Age Club meeting, 2 pm, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg.

MICHIGAN

- Feb. 20 - Finnish Center Association Senior Citizen Housing Corp. annual meeting, 1:30 pm, Finnish Center, 35200 W Eight Mile Rd, Farmington Hills.
- Mar. 25 - Finnish Center Association annual meeting, 3 pm, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills. For absentee & proxy ballots: 248-478-6939.
- Mar. 25 - Finnish-American Society of West Central Michigan St Urho's Day Celebration, 7:30 pm, Westgate Bowl Ballroom, 4486 Alpine NW, Comstock Park.

MINNESOTA

- Mar. 12 - *The Survivors: North American Finns in Stalin's Russia*, a documentary video by Anita Middleton, 2 pm, Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd, St Paul. Music by 'Minnesota Pellimantit' 1:30-2 pm. Free admission. For more info: 651-296-6126.

NEW YORK

- Feb. 23-27 - *The Reindeer Bites*, directed by Glyn O'Malley, a black comedy in two acts written by Jussi Wahlgren, 8 pm, Grove Street Playhouse, 39 Grove St, New York. Presented by The Luminous Group and Finlandia Theatre. Reservations: 917-721-3079.
- Mar. 1 - Mikasonik, 11 pm, C-Note, 157 Avenue C (corner of 10th St, East Village, New York. Tel: 212-677-8142. No cover.
- Mar. 10 - Finlandia Foundation New York Metro Annual Gala Benefit Dinner Dance, 7:30 pm, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York. Arts & Letters Award recipient: Marita Cauthen, editor of RAIVAAJA; Certificate of Merit recipient: Lee Alperin. For more info, reservations: 212-983-5272 or marbolino@sorosny.org
- Mar. 17 - Sound of Village Duo (Yusuke Yamamoto & Mika Pohjola), 10-11:15 pm, KnitActive Sound Stage, Knitting Factory, 74 Leonard St, New York. Tel. 212-219-3006.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Feb. 26 - Finnish American Society of Delaware Valley annual Ski Trip - Laskiainen, Blue Mountain, Palmerton. For more information, reservations (deadline Feb 23), call 610-444-1250.
- Mar. 5 - Jill Seifers & Mika Pohjola, 7-11 pm, Chrissy's Jazz Café, Philadelphia. Tel: 610-649-1596.
- Mar. 16 - The Mika Pohjola Trio, 9 pm-1 am, Chrissy's Jazz Café, Philadelphia.

TEXAS

- Feb. 24 - Finnish-American Society of Dallas/Ft Worth meeting, 7:30 pm, Walnut Hill Lutheran Church, southwest corner of Royal Lane & Webb Chapel, Northwest Dallas.

CANADA

- July 13-16 - Finn Grand Fest 2000, Toronto, Ontario. For registration, more info: Finn Grand Fest 2000, 795 Eglinton Ave East, Box 2, Toronto, ON M4G 4E4, Canada; fax 416-651-0236; www.finngrandfest.org; Canada toll free 1-888-ISO-FINN; calls from outside Canada, 416-651-6465.

Events subject to change without notice

Democracy in action

To Raivaaja:

The election of Prime Minister Tarja Halonen to be President of the Republic of Finland is an exceptional example of democracy in action. The number of Finns that voted in the earlier runoff election and in the final two person contest for President, exceeded seventy-five percent of the Finnish electorate. This is most extraordinary and depicts participatory democracy in action, which began during the previous Presidential election when the Finnish Electoral College was eliminated in favor of direct voting by individuals.

President-elect Halonen has acknowledged in her moment of victory that her election was another step in the furtherance of equality in Finland. Yet, upon analysis, it would appear that the concepts and ideals of the Social Democratic Party in Finland continue to appeal to the Finnish population.

We, as Finnish-Americans should be extremely proud of the accomplishments of the people and government of Finland over the many years since Finland's independence, based principally on the fact that the Finnish democratic system of government works exceedingly well.

Edwin E. Kaarela
Consul of Finland
Fitchburg, MA

Lukijan kynästä

The LUKIJAN KYNÄSTÄ (From a Reader's Pen) Section invites readers to discuss current issues of the Finnish American community. Everyone is welcome to contribute.

Debate, observe, question, suggest - express your opinion! If possible, keep your letter to the length of one typewritten page or two handwritten pages. Letters selected for publication may be shortened for space reasons.

Letters published in this section do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RAIVAAJA staff, Raivaaja Publishing Company Board of Directors or Shareholders.

You may request to use a pseudonym for publication with your letter, but your letter must include your real name and address. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Send your letter to: LUKIJAN KYNÄSTÄ, RAIVAAJA, P.O. Box 600, Fitchburg, MA 01420-0600.

Kiitos, Judith!

Finnish Center [Fitchburg, MA] members were given a very special treat last Wednesday with the inaugural showing of "Traditions of Culture," an artistic, creative, documentary of Finnish life and culture among the Finns of the Fitchburg region. This is part of a wider project through Congressman Olver and the Library of Congress to preserve ethnic culture in America. This worthy project enlisted the talented Judith Lindstedt who regularly produces human interest pro-

grams for her local cable access television program "An Uncommon View."

We were able, through the eyes of Judith, a Finnish American, and member of the Finnish Center at Saima Park, to see the story of the Fitchburg region Finns. And it is a delightful story told by many Finnish faces famous and beloved by all of us.

The Finnish American experience begins in Finland with the songs and stories of the Kalevala. As Miriam Lehto said, "They sang themselves

into existence." The Kalevala brought the Finns together, gave them language and literature, inspired all kinds of creativity and gave birth to a nation.

In America the story tells of a Finn being a signer of the Declaration of Independence. And with the singing of both national anthems we see both the ancestral and national loyalties. Fitchburg Finns are Americans but their culture is rooted in the Kalevala and Finland.

The interviews are excellent in choice of personalities and informative content. We see Miriam Lehto telling us about Saima Hall and Saima Park. Maija Mård stands on the steps of the old dance hall and nostalgically remembers her dancing youth. Roy Helander compares stories in the Kalevala to the Book of Genesis. Toini Laakso recounts her joyous days in the Reipas Athletic Club and how she paid 25 cents to join Reipas. We saw the old diving tower at Saima Park, learned about Puranen's Folly when the pump failed to deliver water to the swimming pool yet in later pond yet in later years it began to operate. Karl Makela ably spoke of Reipas A.C. showing us some old but beautiful trophies won by the athletes. And we saw a lone skier, Raimo Ahti, guiding freestyle on the Saima snow.

The church Finns were rep-

resented by the lovely Finnish ladies of Messiah Lutheran Church singing traditional Christmas hymns at pikkujoulu. Rauni Cote stood on the steps of Kaleva Koti and told us about Finnish language courses at the Kaleva Home since 1969.

We saw Mayme Sevander who has authored several books on Finns who traveled to Karelia. And both June and Henry Flinkstrom told the most remarkable story of how they learned about their missing relatives through Mayme's research.

And of course a sauna story! Someone recounts his youth and a thunder and lightning storm and how the family found refuge in the sauna, huddled as a family, in the perceived safety of the sauna, and, in language I like, said that the sauna is the maker of the Finnish soul.

The presentation is not a who's who among Fitchburg Finns. It is not an encyclopedic, comprehensive history. It is not a promo of the Finnish Center. It is a delightful, charming, magical story of our family of Fitchburg Finns from a Fitchburg Finnish woman who brought her energy and artistic creative talent to this effort. It is both wonderful and excellent.

Thank you so very much, Judith. Kiitos, Judith!

Paul Oinonen
Hudson, MA

Norvika introduces 'Gems of the Baltic'

NEW YORK - Norvika is introducing a nine-day "Gems of the Baltic Sea" cruise tour that combines a seven-night cruise on Holland America's luxurious M/S MAASDAM, special shore excursions for Norvika passengers at each port, roundtrip transatlantic Finnair flights between New York and Stockholm, almost all meals, and transfers. Departures are scheduled on June 24 and July 8.

The 55,451-ton MAASDAM sails from Stockholm through the scenic Stockholm archipelago, the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland to Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland; and Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland.

The shore excursions program, designed exclusively for Norvika passengers, includes city tours of Stockholm, Helsinki and St. Petersburg; Catherine's Palace at Tsarskoe Selo; and walking tours of Tallinn and Visby.

Among highlights are the Vaasa Warship Museum in Stockholm; the Rocca Al Mare open-air museum of 18th- and 19th-century Estonian rural life; the renowned Peacock Clock and Impressionist paintings in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg; the opulent Amber Room at Catherine's Palace and the restored Yusupov Palace, where Ras-

putin was murdered in 1916; well-preserved old houses in charming Porvoo, Finland; and the Botanical Garden in Visby, a walled medieval Hanseatic city.

Lunches on all-day excursions are scheduled at the Rocca Al Mare museum; the stylish Na Zdorovic Restaurant, with a folklore show, and the Noble Nest in St. Petersburg; and historic Haikko Manor near Porvoo.

The 1,266-passenger MAASDAM, which entered service in 1993, has a \$2 million art collection, a three-deck grand atrium, two restaurants, five lounges and bars, a theater, casino, games rooms, library, dutyfree shops, spa fitness center, two swimming pools and two tennis courts. All staterooms are equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning, a queensize bed convertible to two singles, sofa, telephone, hairdryer, TV and multi-channel music system.

The Scandinavian trip can be extended by adding extra nights in Stockholm, Helsinki and other cities.

Information, brochures and reservations can be obtained from Norvika, Inc., 228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017; tel. (800) 677-6454 or (212) 818-1198; fax (212) 818-0585.

PERFORMERS

memory of its origins."

MINNA RASKINEN - One of the most widely recognized contemporary players of the kantele and arrangers of kantele music in Finland today.

PIRITTA VENHO - The Tango Princess of 1998, Seinäjoki Tango Festival.

Choirs & orchestras

TAMPERE-SEURAN ORKESTERI - In postwar Finland, in the city of Tampere flourished the Tampere-Seura, which was founded in 1937 to maintain and promote the spirit and traditions of the Tampere region. In 1946 it founded its very own orchestra. Initially the group took a special interest in playing music associated with Tampere, but today has expanded its repertoire.

The 25-member string orchestra is conducted by Simo Oksala, to whom the president of Finland recently granted the honorable title of Director Musices. Soloists are Kaija Sinisalo (soprano) and Reijo Lahtinen (baritone).

HELSINKI CITY FOLKLORE GROUP (Uudenmaan Kansanmusiikkijyhdistys ry'n laulupelimannit ja muusikot) - Under the direction of Anja Hinkkanen, the Folklore Group performs Finnish folk music and folk dancing. Performing ensembles in this organization include Sakarat, a group of singing country

musicians; Wolkkarit, a group of young folk musicians; and Tömistäjät ja Nimitömmät, two youth folk dance groups.

The CONSERVATORY of CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA - The following three groups from the Conservatory are represented at FGF2000 by the Chairman of the Kokkola Youth Choir, Hannu Salo:

KOKKOLAN NUORISOKUORO - The Kokkola Youth Choir is a well-known choir for girls (ages 12-18) and is affiliated with the Conservatory of Central Ostrobothnia. Founded in 1979 by Lauri Vuorela, Kari Pappinen has been conductor since 1987.

The 50-member choir has been successful in both national and international choir contests and has made several concert tours in Europe and the United States. In 1993-94, the Kokkola Youth Choir was chosen "choir of the year" by the National Radio of Finland and that same year, represented Finland at the ISME conference in Tampa (FL) with noted recognition for their work.

KOKKOLAN NUORISOKUORUNTA - The Kokkola Youth Orchestra comprises three different level orchestras. Their A-level orchestra represents the best wind instrumentalists of Finland.

They have received several prizes and honorable mentions for their works, performing regularly at home and abroad. Their conductor since 1990 has been Kari Pappinen.

KESKI-POHJANMAAN KONSERVATORION ESIINTYJÄRYHMÄ - The performing group of the Conservatory of Central Ostrobothnia is made up of teachers who have expressed a willingness to perform. This very high-level group will be joined by Hannu Ilmolahti, a renowned opera singer who recently captured the heart of the Finnish community in Florida.

DISCANTUS is a female choir from Helsinki that has been in existence for over 20 years. Their program consists of all kinds of music, including sacred, folk, tangos and Finnish composers (including recent ones). The 40-member choir is led by Katarina Engström, a musician in an East-Helsinki parish. Their official representative is Aila Nyman.

These are just some of the performers scheduled to appear at Finn Grand Fest 2000.

For more information contact Finn Grand Fest 2000 by calling their infoline 1-888-ISO-FINN, overseas 416-651-6465, FAX 416-651-0236 or info@finngrandfest.org

Finn Grand Fest 2000

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**Mass. Senior X-C ski races
held at Saima Park**

Massachusetts Senior X-C Ski Races were held at Saima Park on Saturday, February 12. The races were hosted by the Finnish Center at Saima Park.

The results are as follows:

Women's

5K Classical

Ages 50-54 - Sirkka Honkala (52), 24:53.

55-59 - Ritva Makela (59), 27:59.

65-69 - Brigitte Langer (69), 34:55.

5K Freestyle

Ages 65-69 - Brigitte Langer, 35:17.

Men's

5K Classical

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala (57), 17:49

60-64 - Philip F. McKean (63), 18:43; Karl Tuomivaara (64), 23:11; Karl Makela (62) 26:19.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti (65), 17:00; Rudy Lahti (67), 24:41; Bob Beaudet (67), 34:47.

70-74 - Graham Taylor (74), 22:25; Horst G. Langer (72), 27:49.

80-84 - William R. Stern (80).

10K Classical

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 36:03

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 38:31; Karl Tuomivaara, 46:29.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 34:06; Rudy Lahti, 49:49

70-74 - Graham R. Taylor, 44:49; Horst G. Langer, 58:34.

5K Freestyle

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 17:01.

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 16:48; Jim Daley, 17:39; Karl Tuomivaara, 25:06; Karl Makela (62) 29:16.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 16:20; Rudy Lahti, 27:01.

70-74 - Graham Taylor, 23:17; Horst G. Langer, 31:03.

Finnish Center at Saima Park

Fitchburg, MA



10K Freestyle

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 33:33.

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 32:39; Jim Daley, 35:11.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 31:35; Rudy Lahti, 52:31.

70-74 - Graham Taylor, 44:23.

Finnish Center at Saima Park



Karl Makela, center, with two unnamed race officials.



Sirkka and Veikko Honkala



William Stern
80 years young



Veikko Honkala, left, and Raimo Ahti, right, with unidentified race official.



Graham Taylor, Veikko Honkala and Karl Tuomivaara.



Among those attending the games were Jack Newman, president of the National Senior Games, second from left, and Bill Clue, board member of the Massachusetts Games, on the right.

Democracy in action

To Raivaaja:

The election of Prime Minister Tarja Halonen to be President of the Republic of Finland is an exceptional example of democracy in action. The number of Finns that voted in the earlier runoff election and in the final two person contest for President, exceeded seventy-five percent of the Finnish electorate. This is most extraordinary and depicts participatory democracy in action, which began during the previous Presidential election when the Finnish Electoral College was eliminated in favor of direct voting by individuals.

President-elect Halonen has acknowledged in her moment of victory that her election was another step in the furtherance of equality in Finland. Yet, upon analysis, it would appear that the concepts and ideals of the Social Democratic Party in Finland continue to appeal to the Finnish population.

We, as Finnish-Americans should be extremely proud of the accomplishments of the people and government of Finland over the many years since Finland's independence, based principally on the fact that the Finnish democratic system of government works exceedingly well.

Edwin E. Kaarela
Consul of Finland
Fitchburg, MA

Lukijan kynästä

The LUKIJAN KYNÄSTÄ (From a Reader's Pen) Section invites readers to discuss current issues of the Finnish American community. Everyone is welcome to contribute.

Debate, observe, question, suggest - express your opinion! If possible, keep your letter to the length of one typewritten page or two handwritten pages. Letters selected for publication may be shortened for space reasons.

Letters published in this section do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the RAIVAAJA staff, Raivaaja Publishing Company Board of Directors or Shareholders.

You may request to use a pseudonym for publication with your letter, but your letter must include your real name and address. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Send your letter to: LUKIJAN KYNÄSTÄ, RAIVAAJA, P.O. Box 600, Fitchburg, MA 01420-0600.

Kiitos, Judith!

Finnish Center [Fitchburg, MA] members were given a very special treat last Wednesday with the inaugural showing of "Traditions of Culture," an artistic, creative, documentary of Finnish life and culture among the Finns of the Fitchburg region. This is part of a wider project through Congressman Olver and the Library of Congress to preserve ethnic culture in America. This worthy project enlisted the talented Judith Lindstedt who regularly produces human interest pro-

grams for her local cable access television program "An Uncommon View."

We were able, through the eyes of Judith, a Finnish American, and member of the Finnish Center at Saima Park, to see the story of the Fitchburg region Finns. And it is a delightful story told by many Finnish faces famous and beloved by all of us.

The Finnish American experience begins in Finland with the songs and stories of the Kalevala. As Miriam Lehto said, "They sang themselves

into existence." The Kalevala brought the Finns together, gave them language and literature, inspired all kinds of creativity and gave birth to a nation.

In America the story tells of a Finn being a signer of the Declaration of Independence. And with the singing of both national anthems we see both the ancestral and national loyalties. Fitchburg Finns are Americans but their culture is rooted in the Kalevala and Finland.

The interviews are excellent in choice of personalities and informative content. We see Miriam Lehto telling us about Saima Hall and Saima Park. Maija Märd stands on the steps of the old dance hall and nostalgically remembers her dancing youth. Roy Helander compares stories in the Kalevala to the Book of Genesis. Toimi Laakso recounts her joyous days in the Reipas Athletic Club and how she paid 25 cents to join Reipas. We saw the old diving tower at Saima Park, learned about Puranen's Folly when the pump failed to deliver water to the swimming pool yet in later pond yet in later years it began to operate. Karl Makela ably spoke of Reipas A.C. showing us some old but beautiful trophies won by the athletes. And we saw a lone skier, Raimo Ahti, guiding freestyle on the Saima snow.

The church Finns were represented by the lovely Finnish ladies of Messiah Lutheran Church singing traditional Christmas hymns at pikkujoulu. Rauni Cote stood on the steps of Kaleva Koti and told us about Finnish language courses at the Kaleva Home since 1969.

We saw Mayme Sevander who has authored several books on Finns who traveled to Karelia. And both June and Henry Flinkstrom told the most remarkable story of how they learned about their missing relatives through Mayme's research.

And of course a sauna story! Someone recounts his youth and a thunder and lightning storm and how the family found refuge in the sauna, huddled as a family, in the perceived safety of the sauna, and, in language I like, said that the sauna is the maker of the Finnish soul.

The presentation is not a who's who among Fitchburg Finns. It is not an encyclopedic, comprehensive history. It is not a promo of the Finnish Center. It is a delightful, charming, magical story of our family of Fitchburg Finns from a Fitchburg Finnish woman who brought her energy and artistic creative talent to this effort. It is both wonderful and excellent.

Thank you so very much, Judith. Kiitos, Judith!

Paul Oinonen
Hudson, MA

Norvistä introduces 'Gems of the Baltic'

NEW YORK - Norvistä is introducing a nine-day "Gems of the Baltic Sea" cruise tour that combines a seven-night cruise on Holland America's luxurious M/S MAASDAM, special shore excursions for Norvistä passengers at each port, roundtrip transatlantic Finnair flights between New York and Stockholm, almost all meals, and transfers. Departures are scheduled on June 24 and July 8.

The 55,451-ton MAASDAM sails from Stockholm through the scenic Stockholm archipelago, the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland to Tallinn, Estonia; St. Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland; and Visby on the Swedish island of Gotland.

The shore excursions program, designed exclusively for Norvistä passengers, includes city tours of Stockholm, Helsinki and St. Petersburg; Catherine's Palace at Tsarskoe Selo; and walking tours of Tallinn and Visby.

Among highlights are the Vaasa Warship Museum in Stockholm; the Rocca Al Mare open-air museum of 18th- and 19th-century Estonian rural life; the renowned Peacock Clock and Impressionist paintings in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg; the opulent Amber Room at Catherine's Palace and the restored Yusupov Palace, where Ras-

putin was murdered in 1916; well-preserved old houses in charming Porvoo, Finland; and the Botanical Garden in Visby, a walled medieval Hanseatic city.

Lunches on all-day excursions are scheduled at the Rocca Al Mare museum; the stylish Na Zdorovic Restaurant, with a folklore show, and the Noble Nest in St. Petersburg; and historic Haikko Manor near Porvoo.

The 1,266-passenger MAASDAM, which entered service in 1993, has a \$2 million art collection, a three-deck grand atrium, two restaurants, five lounges and bars, a theater, casino, games rooms, library, dutyfree shops, spa fitness center, two swimming pools and two tennis courts. All staterooms are equipped with individually controlled air-conditioning, a queensize bed convertible to two singles, sofa, telephone, hairdryer, TV and multi-channel music system.

The Scandinavian trip can be extended by adding extra nights in Stockholm, Helsinki and other cities.

Information, brochures and reservations can be obtained from Norvistä, Inc., 228 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017; tel. (800) 677-6454 or (212) 818-1198; fax (212) 818-0585.

PERFORMERS

memory of its origins."

MINNA RASKINEN - One of the most widely recognized contemporary players of the kantele and arrangers of kantele music in Finland today.

PIRITTA VENHO - The Tango Princess of 1998, Seinäjoki Tango Festival.

Choirs & orchestras

TAMPERE-SEURAN ORKESTERI - In postwar Finland, in the city of Tampere flourished the Tampere-Seura, which was founded in 1937 to maintain and promote the spirit and traditions of the Tampere region. In 1946 it founded its very own orchestra. Initially the group took a special interest in playing music associated with Tampere, but today has expanded its repertoire.

The 25-member string orchestra is conducted by Simo Oksala, to whom the president of Finland recently granted the honorable title of Director Musices. Soloists are Kaija Sinisalo (soprano) and Reijo Lahtinen (baritone).

HELSINKI CITY FOLKLORE GROUP (Uudenmaan Kansanmusiikkiryhmä ry:n laulupelimannit ja muusikot) - Under the direction of Anja Hinkkanen, the Folklore Group performs Finnish folk music and folk dancing. Performing ensembles in this organization include Sakarat, a group of singing country

musicians; Wolkkarit, a group of young folk musicians; and Tömistäjät ja Nimettömät, two youth folk dance groups.

The CONSERVATORY of CENTRAL OSTROBOTHNIA - The following three groups from the Conservatory are represented at FGF2000 by the Chairman of the Kokkola Youth Choir, Hannu Salo:

KOKKOLAN NUORISOKUORO - The Kokkola Youth Choir is a well-known choir for girls (ages 12-18) and is affiliated with the Conservatory of Central Ostrobothnia. Founded in 1979 by Lauri Vuorela, Kari Pappinen has been conductor since 1987.

The 50-member choir has been successful in both national and international choir contests and has made several concert tours in Europe and the United States. In 1993-94, the Kokkola Youth Choir was chosen "choir of the year" by the National Radio of Finland and that same year, represented Finland at the ISME conference in Tampa (FL) with noted recognition for their work.

KOKKOLAN NUORISOKUORUNTA - The Kokkola Youth Orchestra comprises three different level orchestras. Their A-level orchestra represents the best wind instrumentalists of Finland.

They have received several prizes and honorable mentions for their works, performing regularly at home and abroad. Their conductor since 1990 has been Kari Pappinen.

KESKI-POHJANMAAN KONSERVATORION ESIINTYJÄRYHMÄ - The performing group of the Conservatory of Central Ostrobothnia is made up of teachers who have expressed a willingness to perform. This very high-level group will be joined by Hannu Ilmolahti, a renowned opera singer who recently captured the heart of the Finnish community in Florida.

DISCANTUS is a female choir from Helsinki that has been in existence for over 20 years. Their program consists of all kinds of music, including sacred, folk, tangos and Finnish composers (including recent ones). The 40-member choir is led by Katarina Engström, a musician in an East-Helsinki parish. Their official representative is Aila Nyman.

These are just some of the performers scheduled to appear at Finn Grand Fest 2000.

For more information contact Finn Grand Fest 2000 by calling their infoline 1-888-ISO-FINN, overseas 416-651-6465, FAX 416-651-0236 or info@finngrandfest.org

Finn Grand Fest 2000

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**Mass. Senior X-C ski races
held at Saima Park**

Massachusetts Senior X-C Ski Races were held at Saima Park on Saturday, February 12. The races were hosted by the Finnish Center at Saima Park.

The results are as follows:

Women's**5K Classical**

Ages 50-54 - Sirkka Honkala (52), 24:53.

55-59 - Ritva Makela (59), 27:59.

65-69 - Brigitte Langer (69), 34:55.

5K Freestyle

Ages 65-69 - Brigitte Langer, 35:17.

Men's**5K Classical**

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala (57), 17:49

60-64 - Philip F. McKean (63), 18:43; Karl Tuomivaara (64), 23:11; Karl Makela (62) 26:19.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti (65), 17:00; Rudy Lahti (67), 24:41; Bob Beaudet (67), 34:47.

70-74 - Graham Taylor (74), 22:25; Horst G. Langer (72), 27:49.

80-84 - William R. Stern (80).

10K Classical

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 36:03

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 38:31; Karl Tuomivaara, 46:29.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 34:06; Rudy Lahti, 49:49

70-74 - Graham R. Taylor, 44:49; Horst G. Langer, 58:34.

5K Freestyle

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 17:01.

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 16:48; Jim Daley, 17:39; Karl Tuomivaara, 25:06; Karl Makela (62) 29:16.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 16:20; Rudy Lahti, 27:01.

70-74 - Graham Taylor, 23:17; Horst G. Langer, 31:03.

Finnish Center at Saima Park**Fitchburg, MA****10K Freestyle**

Ages 55-59 - Veikko Honkala, 33:33.

60-64 - Philip F. McKean, 32:39; Jim Daley, 35:11.

65-69 - Raimo I. Ahti, 31:35; Rudy Lahti, 52:31.

70-74 - Graham Taylor, 44:23.

Finnish Center at Saima Park



Karl Makela, center, with two unnamed race officials.



Sirkka and Veikko Honkala



William Stern
80 years young



Veikko Honkala, left, and Raimo Ahti, right, with unidentified race official.



Graham Taylor, Veikko Honkala and Karl Tuomivaara.



Among those attending the games were Jack Newman, president of the National Senior Games, second from left, and Bill Clue, board member of the Massachusetts Games, on the right.

BLACKOUT

from page 6

moved into Finland after a similar peace of 1721.

"Today, as may have been true 219 years ago, there were no foreign observers present to watch the Russians even from a distance. The peace procedure of Peter the Great and Joself V. Stalin were strikingly alike.

"The Russian occupation is beginning and will continue under a schedule laid down in the protocol of the Treaty of Moscow which was signed Tuesday and which one Helsinki newspaper described as 'the most sorrowful document ever signed in the history of Finland.'

"According to Article III of the pact in a protocol, the transfer of Finnish territory along the Isthmus-Ladoga fronts will proceed in 'marches of not less than 7 kilometers per day' from ten o'clock this morning.

"All across the Karelian Isthmus the same kind of drama is being enacted.

"Consequently it seems certain that Viipuri, which is Finland's most ancient and

third largest city (Finland's second largest - author) will be entirely occupied by Russians before nightfall. Soviet troops have held positions within 7 kilometers of Viipuri for two weeks.

"A ravaged, desolate and pitiful skeleton comprising thousands of shattered homes and ruined buildings awaits the incoming Red Army - but no reporter will be within scores of miles of the scene. Now newspaperman will be able to give an eye-witness account of Viipuri's return beneath the sovereignty of a 20th century czar.

"All across the Karelian Isthmus the same kind of drama is being enacted. By noon today Stalin's 'liberating' troops must have occupied Acrapää Village and the thin stretch which links upper and lower lakes at Vuoksi.

"This was the key position which became the Verdun of the Mannerheim Line. For the past three weeks the most savage and concentrated onslaughts of the Russian infantry, artillery and air

forces, failed to break the Finnish resistance there. If the Soviets could have broken through they would have turned on the whole eastern part of the Mannerheim Line. Now they have won - at Stockholm, Berlin and Moscow - which the Red Army was never able to capture.

"It is the same all along the lower Lake Vuoksi Suvanto to the north of the Taipale River and Lake Ladoga. Long before these lines reach print the Russian troops will have marched across the ice of three lakes and the river at the very places where they have been thrown back and slain by the thousands, again and again, during three long months.

"By noon today, it was assured that the Soviet forces had marched into Taipale and up the steep slopes of the Taipale bluffs which had been the Gibraltar of the Mannerheim Line all through the war. In mid-December from front line trenches on these bluffs we watched the Red Cavalry across the river and were spectators as the Russians threw shell after shell upon the Finnish line just west of us.

"But Taipale and its bluffs were never swarmed. In no other section of the Karelian Isthmus have the Russian dead been piled so high on ice and snow.

"Today the red-starred troops walked into Taipale's trenches and past its concrete pillboxes. The parade of a dictated peace had begun."

The peace treaty specified that on March 13, 1940, at eleven o'clock in the morning, firing would stop on all fronts.

This information was given to the commanding officers at 10 A.M. on the same day and the men received the word at 10:40 A.M. - just twenty minutes before hostilities ended. But fighting continued unabated until the last minute, to the last second...

"I was stationed in a small village some four miles southeast of Viipuri," related an overtired, bearded, smoke-blackened officer who had been at the front continuously.

"We had battled hard the

day before and had repulsed five enemy attacks. Then we received the news of a peace. The bulletin outlining the terms made the officers downhearted. When the men were informed of a peace, they asked, had the Russians taken enough punishment."

"When told of the terms that it imposed, tears, which they did not try to hide, began streaming down the cheeks of many of those war-hardened men who had for weeks faced death fearlessly, defending, to the point of all human endurance. Many said they would rather die fighting than submit to the terms dictated by Moscow. But the order had been given and it had to be obeyed."

"During the last hour of fighting we had withstood an intensive artillery bombardment in which we lost eight men. Precisely two minutes before eleven o'clock artillery fire stopped, and soon, all fighting. The newly-arrived silence that came, bewildered us - our ears still rang from the thundering noise of this morning's heavy artillery fire..."

Orders were orders - obeying them the Finnish army left the trenches which it had defended for 105 unforgettable days with unparalleled bravery, withdrawing 7 kilometers a day westward to the new boundary. Those who took part in this withdrawal tell that among the front line troops were many suffering from complete mental and physical exhaustion, having been on duty without the benefit of relief or rest from the continuous fighting, which made the forced 7-kilometer march per day a great hardship.

So the Finns departed from their trenches and gun-smashed pillboxes in the snow-covered forest, withdrawing with a heavy heart toward a shrunken homeland, toward the West.

Still, this peace did not bring happiness and a rejoicing spirit to the Finnish people - it was a crushing, tyrannical peace. In March the national emblem of Finland flew at half mast all over the nation, as a demonstration of national mourning...

At the heels of the army withdrawing from the land it defended, was another army, an army of despair, an army of a hundred thousand refugees who voluntarily and decisively spurned their homes and property in the area ceded to Russia. They now toiled to enter inside the shrunken boundary lines.

On foot, in automobiles, in vehicles drawn by horses, and on trains, that homeless army trudged forward over the snow-covered ground, hauling with great difficulty livestock and a few, precious, personal belongings. Roads were jammed. All trains and automobiles travelling westward were feverishly aiding this marching army.

There was no time for delay. They must rush to get out of the ceded area in the few hours specified by the terms. They must cold-bloodedly leave homes and familiar surroundings dear to them...only that, which could be bundled up and carried as luggage, could be taken along to follow the owner on the road.

To the best of their ability the soldiers of the army, still wearing their war-stained uniforms, gave a helping hand to the victimized army of circumstances, sharing meals, assisting with the livestock, and in the transportation of whatever salvaged belongings the refugees were able to take with them. They must travel during the night as well as the day, westward, out of the path of the enemy marching at their heels from the East...

These hundred thousand joined the large group of 350,000 who were evacuated during the war, who soon filled the Finnish cities, towns, villages, countrysides, forming a huge refugee population, the placement and readjustment of whom is creating a prodigious and difficult task for Finland.

to be continued

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