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Tarja Halonen YK:n huippukokouksen puheenjohtajaksi

Suomen Tasavallan presidentti Tarja Halonen on valittu syyskuun YK:n huippukokouksen puheenjohtajaksi. Kolmipäiväisen kokouksen on määrä hahmotella YK:n roolia tulevaisuudessa.

YK:n yleiskokous valitsi presidentti Halosen puheenjohtajaksi tällä viikolla. Halonen johtaa kokousta yhdessä Namibian presidentin Sam Nujoman kanssa.

YK:n tulevaisuuden roolia hahmotteleva kokous järjestetään 6.-8. syyskuuta. Huippukokouksen odotetaan antavan YK:n 21. vuosisadan ohjelmajulistuksen.

Suomalaiset ovat vahvasti esillä YK:ssa lähiaikoina, sillä syksyllä alkavan uuden istuntokauden ajan puheenjohtajana toimii valtioneuvos Harri Holkeri. Muodollisesti yleiskokous vahvistaa Holkerin puheenjohtajuuden ensimmäisessä istunnossaan, joka pidetään 5. syyskuuta. (MTV3, STT)

Heidi Hautala:

EU:n sotilasasiakirjojen salailu EY-tuomioistuimeen

Euroopan Unionin sotilaallisten asiakirjojen salailu saattaa johtaa käsittelyyn EY-tuomioistuimessa. Europarlamentaarikko Heidi Hautala (vihr.) yrittää saada Euroopan Parlamentin haastamaan EU-maat oikeuteen asiassa. Hautala kertoi ensimmäisen kerran asiasta tällä viikolla *Aamulehdessä*.

Hautalaa kismittää se, että EU-maat ovat tiukentaneet turvallisuus- ja puolustuspolitiikkaan liittyvien asiakirjojen avoimuutta. Tämä päätös on monien mielestä jyrkässä ristiriidassa EU:n perustuslakia vastaavien perustamissopimusten kanssa. (STT)

Finnairin viinikellari palkittiin taas

Amerikkalainen liikematkustajille suunnattu *Business Traveller* -lehti on jo kolmannen kerran neljän vuoden kuluessa arvioinut Finnairin viinikellarin lentoyhtiöiden parhaaksi. Elokuun numerossaan lehti arvioi lentoyhtiöiden viinikellareiden tasoa ja antoi Finnairille *Best Cellar in the Sky* -arvonimen.

New Yorkissa pidettyyn maistiaistilaisuuteen pyydettiin 39 lentoyhtiöltä neljä viiniä. 25 arvostetun viiniasiantuntijan raati arvioi 195 viiniä.

Taloussanomien mukaan Finnairin viinikellarissa voi kerrallaan olla yli 600 erilaista viiniä. Yhtiö toimittaa lentojensa ja Helsingin lentoaseman tax free -myymälän lisäksi viinit noin 80 prosenttiin Suomen gourmet-ravintoloista.

Finnairin jälkeen parhaan viinikellarin omistivat meksikolainen Aeromexico ja yhdysvaltalainen Delta Airlines. (SS)

Heinäkuu erityisen sateinen Suomessa

Heinäkuussa satoi Suomessa paikoitellen jopa kolme kertaa enemmän kuin yleensä heinäkuussa. Melkein koko Suomessa sadetta saatiin keskimääräistä enemmän viime kuussa. Erityisen runsaasti satoi Suomen lounaisosissa ja paikoitellen sisämaassa. (SS)



Here's the future . . .

Finn Grand Fest 2000 is history now. Thousands gathered in Toronto, July 13-16, to celebrate our collective ethnic heritage with music, dance, literature, food and friendship. These two photographs represent the future and the past. Above, students of Toronto Suomi-koulu sing during the opening ceremonies. Below, the ancestors' clothesline shows where we come from.



... and here's the past

This week in

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- Roy Helander's report on Finn Grand Fest 2000
- Carol Pärssinen elected FinnFest USA president

Suomen uutisia

Suomi on Euroopan kallein autoilumaa

Suomi on autoilijalle Euroopan kallein maa. Suomalainen ajaa tuhannen markan bensiinierällä keskimäärin 300 kilometriä vähemmän kuin muut euroalueen autoilijat. Diesel-autolla ajava jää Suomessa vastaavassa vertailussa 275 kilometriä muista euroalueen autoilijoista.

Autoillun kasvu on Suomessa kääntynyt laskuun ensimmäisen kerran neljään vuoteen. Bensiinikauppiaitten liiton tilaston mukaan bensiinin myynti väheni kesäkuussa kuusi prosenttia.

Autoilu on Euroopassa halvinta Espanjassa. Bensiinin hinta on Suomen tasolla vain Hollannissa. (SS)

Töölönlahden taidepuutarhat yleisömenestys

Helsingin kulttuurivuoden keskeinen hanke Töölönlahden taidepuutarhat on saanut tähän mennessä jo yli 100 000 kävijää. Taloustutkimus Oy on tehnyt haastattelututkimuksen taidepuutarhoissa. Sen mukaan 92 prosentilla kokemukset ovat olleet erittäin tai melko positiivisia.

Puutarhassa käynti on ilmaista ja kukkaloisto on juuri nyt parhaimmillaan. Töölönlahden taidepuutarhoissa on lisäksi paljon erilaisia tilateoksia ja veistoksia.

Ensi viikonloppuna Töölönlahden alueella on runsaasti muutakin ohjelmaa. Sirkus Hurjaruuth valtaa Auran kentän perjantaista alkaen ja Helsingin sarjakuvafestivaali levittäytyy Töölönlahden makasiinille. (MTV3, STT)

Suomen Leijonat Finnish Designin tunnetuksi tekemisen uranuurtajille

Arkkitehti Benjamin Thompsonille ja hänen puolisolleen, toimitusjohtaja Jane Thompsonille on myönnetty Suomen Leijonan ritarikunnan I luokan ritarimerkit. Jane ja Benjamin Thompson kuuluvat suomalaisen muotoilun ja "Finnish Design"-käsitteen tunnetuksi tekemisen uranuurtajiin Yhdysvalloissa. He ovat vaikuttaneet keskeisesti siihen, että suomalainen elämämuoto ja kulttuuri saivat jalansijaa 1960- ja 70-lukujen Yhdysvalloissa.

Kunniamerkit luovutti pääkonsuli Maija Lähteenmäki New Yorkissa järjestetyssä heinäkuussa lounastilaisuudessa. Tilaisuudessa oli läsnä toistakymmentä new-yorkilaista muotoilun ja arkkitehtuurin vaikuttajaa.

Viimeinen Hornet luovutettu

Viimeinen Hornet-hävittäjä luovutettiin Ilmavoimille 8. elokuuta Kuoreveden Hallissa. Hävittäjät on koennut Patria Finavitec. Ilmavoimilla on nyt käytössään kaikkiaan 64 Hornetia. Näistä 57 yksipaikkaista on koottu Suomessa. Patria Finavitec on ollut jatkuvasti hieman edellä aikatauluaan.

Hävittäjien lopullinen hinta nousi yli 18 miljardiin markkaan. Aikoinaan tilausvaltuuksien määrä oli noin 14 miljardia. Lisämenot johtuvat suurelta osin dollarin kurssin noususta. (STT)

Merimies-unioni jatkaa saartoa

Suomen Merimies-unionin puheenjohtaja Simo Zitting vakuuttaa, että heidän saartotoimensa kahta Finnlinesin alusta vastaan ovat täysin laillisia. Merimies-unioni saartoi kaksi Finnlinesin alusta ulkomaisen työvoiman käytön vuoksi. Zittingin mukaan päälystölaittojen tekemät sopimukset ohi Merimies-unionin ovat laittomia.

Merimiesunioni alkaa jatkaa saartoa, ja muun muassa Auto- ja kuljetusalan ammattiliitto on tukemassa Unionin pyrkimyksiä. (STT)

Aku Ankka stadiksi

Aku Ankka on vihdoinkin opetellut stadin slangia. Suomalaisen rakastama antisankari puhuu helsinkiläisittäin sarjakuva-albumissa *Rotsi on mut byyysat puuttuu*. Akukääntäjäksi valitun Sami Garamin mukaan slangit kehittyvät sen mukana, kun jengi muuttaa stadiin. Punavuorella varttunut Garam kukisti keväisellä koekäännöksellään 234 muuta ehdokasta. (STT)

Exchange rate

August 11, 2000
1 Finnish mark = US \$.1527
1 US \$ = 6.5485 FIM
1 Euro = US \$.90350
1 US \$ = 1.1068 Euros
Foreign exchange, New York prices.
Rates for trades of \$1 million minimum.

Nimipäivät



Elokuun 16 p., Aulis
Elokuun 17 p., Verner
Elokuun 18 p., Leevi
Elokuun 19 p., Mauno, Maunu
Elokuun 20 p., Samuli, Sami, Samuel, Samu
Elokuun 21 p., Soini, Veini
Elokuun 22 p., Iivari, Iivo
Elokuun 23 p., Varma, Signe
Elokuun 24 p., Perttu
Elokuun 25 p., Loviisa
Elokuun 26 p., Ilma, Ilmi, Ilmatar
Elokuun 27 p., Rauli
Elokuun 28 p., Tauno
Elokuun 29 p., Iines, Iina, Inari

Suomen uutisia

Jätteenmäki nostaisi keskustan itseluottamusta

Keskustan sijaisjohtaja Anneli Jäätteenmäki haluaa nostaa keskustaväen itseluottamusta, jota on hänen mukaansa koeteltu. Varsinkin viime vaalien tulos on ollut puolueväelle kova pala. Jäätteenmäki kaipaa keskustalta myös valmiutta avartua ja katsoa asioita uudella tavalla.

Jäätteenmäki arvostelee hallitusta, joka hänen mielestään on unohtanut syrjäytyneet ja köyhät. Budjetista voidaan Jäätteenmäen mielestä lukea, ettei Lipposen hallituksella ole minkäänlaista intoa palkata hyvinvointiyhteiskunnan aukkoja.

Jäätteenmäki piti Harvardiin lähteneen Esko Ahon sijaisena ensimmäisen linjapuheenvuoronsa juuri alkaneessa keskustan eduskuntaryhmän kesäkokouksessa. (STT)

Paavo Nurmen tarina heräsi henkiin Olympiastadionilla

Helsingin kulttuurikaupunkivuoden suurhanke Paavo Nurmi -ooppera hurmasi yleisönsä viime viikon perjantaina. Urheilu-oopperan ensiesitystä seurasi Olympiastadionilla noin 13 000 ihmistä. Esitys sai liikkeelle myös varsin paljon nuoria ja oopperayleisön ensikertalaisia.

Paavo Nurmen tuominen Helsingin olympiastadionille osoittautui hyväksi tavaksi saada oopperalle uusia ystäviä. Korkeakulttuurin ja kansankulttuurin yhdistäminen ei aina ole helppoa, mutta siinä Paavo Nurmi -oopperan tekijät onnistuivat ansiokkaasti.

Katsojien mielestä erityisesti joukkokohtaukset olivat näyttäviä ja esitys oli korkeatasoinen ja puitteet urheilu-oopperalle vertaansa vailla. Yhdeksänkertainen olympiavoittaja Paavo Nurmi astui areenalle toisen kerran lauantaina. (MTV3)

Opetushallitus: Opettajapula uhkaa

Pätevistä opettajista tulee pula, ellei opettajankoulutusta lisätä, varoittaa opetushallitus. Suurten ikäluokkien siirtyminen eläkkeelle seuraavan 10 vuoden aikana pakottaa nostamaan opettajankoulutusmääriä. Varsinkin englannin ja matematiikan opettajia tarvitaan lähitulevaisuudessa lisää. Opetushallituksen selvityksen mukaan perusopetuksen opettajista 50vuotiaiden ja sitä vanhempien osuus on noin 30 prosenttia ja lukiokoulutuksessa runsaat 40 prosenttia. (STT)

Tampere toiseksi houkuttelevin muuttopaikkakunta

Tilastokeskuksen mukaan Tampere on nyt toisena kulu- van vuoden muuttotilastoissa. Vielä viime vuonna Espoo houkutteli enemmän muuttajia kuin Tampere. Ykkös- muuttokohde on kuitenkin Helsinki. Vuoden ensimmäisen puoliskon aikana Helsinkiin muutti yli 2 500 ihmistä, Tampereelle 845, Espooseen 711, Ouluun 679, Vantaalle 336, Turkuun 183 ja Jyväskylään 135.

Syntyvyys mukaan lukien Tampereen väkiluku kasvoi puolessa vuodessa yli tuhannella henkilöllä ja on nyt yli 194 000. Kaupunki ylittää 200 000:n asukkaan rajan tällä vauhdilla vuonna 2004. (SS)

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Fiskars-konserni paransi tulostaan. Tulos rahoituserien jälkeen nousi tammi-kesäkuussa 404 miljoonaa markkaan, kun se vuosi sitten oli 244 miljoonaa markkaa. Tulosta kohensivat pitkäaikaisista sijoituksista saadut kertaluonteiset tuotot. Liikevoittoa konserni teki 256 miljoonaa markkaa, viisi prosenttia enemmän kuin vuosisitten. Fiskarsin liikevaihto kasvoi reilun kolmanneksen. Kuluttajatuotteissa liikevaihtoa tuli lisää suurelta osin yrityskauppojen seurauksena. (STT)

Kokkonen Vuoden Nuori Suunnittelija

Vaatesuunnittelun opiskelija Riitta Kokkonen on voittanut Vuoden Nuori Suunnittelija -kilpailun. 25-vuotias Kokkonen on juuri valmistumassa Taideteollisesta korkeakoulusta. Kilpailutehtävänä oli suunnitella naisen asukokonaisuus seuraavaksi kevääksi ja kesäksi. Raati kiitti Kokkonen työtä selkeäksi ja ajankohtaiseksi, yksinkertaisuudessaan rohkeaksi ja kokonaisuutena toimivaksi.

Voittaja saa 30000 markan tunnustuspalkinnon ja oman osaston messuille. (STT)

Sentit pyöristetään lähimpään viiteen

Senttimääräiset hinnat aloitetaan pyöristää lähimpään viidellä jaolliseen summaan, kun Suomessa vuoden 2002 alussa siirrytään euron ja sen sadasan sentin käyttöön. Pyöristämisen tavoitteena on vähentää yhden ja kahden sentin kolikoiden tarvetta. Pyöristyksestä on tarkoitus antaa lakiesitys eduskunnalle syksyn aikana. Hallituksen talouspoliittinen ministerivaliokunta puolsi tiistaina hanketta. Sentit pyöristetään vain käteiskaupassa. Hintoihin pyöristyksellä ei vaikuteta. (STT)

New York Times kehuu suomalaisarkkitehteja

Venetsian arkkitehtuuribiennaalin suomalaisarkkitehdit Marco Casagrande ja Sami Rintala saavat kiitosta New York Timesissa. Herbert Muschamp nimeää kirjoituksessaan suomalaisten 60 Minute Man -installaation mieliteoksekseen koko biennaalissa.

Muschamp ei mainitse arkkitehteja eikä heidän teostaan nimeltä, mutta kiittää suomalaisia muun muassa sitä, että 60 Minute Man nostaa esiin modernin käsityksen arkkitehdista ongelmien ratkaisijana. Suomalaisen teos soveltaa Muschampin mielestä hyvin näyttelyyn "Kaupunki: vähemmän estetiikkaa, enemmän etiikkaa" -johtoteemaa. (HS)

From the desk of Stig Häggblom:

Placidon tyttö

Tämän kirjoittajan sukujuurit ovat Vaasassa ja tietenkin Porvoossa - äitini oli syntynyt siellä. Juhannuksen alla oli kuitenkin matka Vaasaan ja aamulla startattiin rantatietä pohjoiseen Närpiöstä käsin. Aamu oli loistava.

Kun olimme saapuneet Korsnäsiin, pieneltä vaikuttavalle paikkakunnalle, matkaseurallani sanoi:

"Täältä on Marika Krook kotoisin, ihana tyttö, joka laulaa Placido Domingon kanssa Olympiastadionilla elokuun 26. p:nä. Hän on varmaan tämän pienen paikkakunnan kuuluisin ihminen maailmalla tällä hetkellä..."

On tietenkin sanottava, että nimi oli tuttu, mutta laulajatyttöjähän on nykyisin niin monia. Katri-Helena aikoi naan kuului minun tuttavapiiriini, olihan hän käynyt Tokiossa saakka laulamassa ja oli kuljettaja-ystäväni Tokion Pekan suuri suosikki.

Rupesin ottamaan vähän

selvää...

Koulutyttönä Marika oli saanut kasetin, jossa tähtite-nori Placido Domingo lauloi Othellon nimiroolin. Pikku-tyttö rakastui meksikolaiseen maailmantähteen ja sanoi äidillensä:

"Tuon miehen kanssa tulen vielä laulamaan!"

Äiti tuohtui, suorastaan kauhistui, mutta niin vaan käy, että Pohjanmaan tyttö astuu lauluestradille Suomen Olympiastadionilla laulamaan duettoja koko kansan edessä.

Miten Marikan laulajaura lähti kehittymään? Polku ei ollut kovin ruusuinen. Alussa hän jopa kuvitteli saavansa opiskelijapaikan Tukholman Oopperan suojissa, mutta se oli toiveajattelua. Vauhtia otettiin Karjaalta, missä oli kansanopisto ja laulajakoulutusta.

Svenska Teaternin aikaisempi johtaja Georg Dolivo oli ehkä se, joka otalsi Marikan kyvyt suurinkin tehtäviin.

Krook oli pyrkimässä sivurooliin, mutta saikin paljon suuremman tehtävän. Hän ei ollut enää statisti.

Kun perusopinnot olivat takanapiän, Marika pääsi Lontoossa kuuluisan Vera Rozan oppilaaksi. Irtoaako tästä sitten suora tie kansainvälisen oopperamaailman tähtitaivaalle?

Kysymys lienee paikallaan, mutta vasutausta ei tipu. Marika Krookin lahjakkuus ja kyvyt ovat tänä päivänä tiedossa. Mutta vaikka yli viisi miljoonaa suomalaista lähtisi elokuun 26. päivän iltana hänen tukijoikseen, tulevaisuus on muista seikoista kiinni.

Placido Domingon duetto-kaverina oleminen voi tietenkin merkitä täydellistä läpimurtoa, mutta varmaa se ei ole.

Ensi tapaaminen suuren tenorin kanssa oli Marikalla vuosi sitten Washingtonissa. Olisi järjestynyt tilaisuus koe-laulamiselle, mutta Marika Krook ei ottanut tilaisuutta varteen. Hän ei tuntenut olevansa kypsä siihen. Ehkä juuri tuo seikka - itsekritiikki ja rehellisyys - tarjosi hänelle tuon mahdollisuuden, joka hänellä nyt on Suomen olympiastadionilla.



Menemällä rantatietä Vaasasta etelään saapuu Korsnäsiin. Sieltä on kottisin tämä tyttö. Siellä hän aloitti laulajauransa. Hän on Marika Krook, joka elokuun 26. päivänä laulaa Helsingin Olympiastadionilla Placido Domingon kanssa.



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muistotilaisuus, jota kunni-oitti salintäyteinen yleisö.

28. heinäkuuta

Perjantai pidettiin taas kauden syntymäpäiväkekerit ja sankareita oli peräti yhdeksän. Aatos Autio oli tullut ilahduttamaan väkeä hyvällä laulullaan, jota säesti meidän tuttu avustajamme Paavo Kukkaro. Kiitos hauskoista synttäripartyista!

Reino Kukkamaa ja Charlie soittivat taas kerran mahtavaa musiikkia lauantaina iltapäivällä ja sunnuntain kirkkotilaisuuden piti Hans Nyholm avustajinaan Leo Jaakkola ja Lilly Nyholm. Hans luki myös terveiset meille kaikille Ritva ja Juhani Saukolta sieltä kaukaa Kanadasta ja me toivotamme heille hyviä vointeja sinne Thunder Bayhin.

Maanantai ja kuun viimeinen päivä alkoi kuntoilemalla sekä korttipelillä. Katseltiin televisiota ja katseltiin televisiota. Charlie ja Lydia soittivat ja lauloivat iltapäivän kahvikonsertissa.

Tiistai oli kuulemma kovin hiljainen päivä, kun allekirjoittanut oli kotona parantelemassa pahaa nuhaa ja näytti sitä olevan täällä Lepokodilla muillakin, joten ei ole tarvinnut sairastella yksin tätä Floridan jokakesäistä kylmetty-

mistä.

Keskiviikko aloitettiin taas Helping Hands porukalla, joka vieläkin on vajaalukuinen, joskin hyvin tehokas. Ilta-päivän ohjelmassa oli retki K Martiin ostoksille, jonne lähti melko pieni joukko. Hans piti keskiviikon hartaustilaisuuden ja niin oli taas päästy pilsen päivän iltaan.

Torstaina kävimme Publixissa ja pidimme pienen lukuhetken Pokela-huoneessa ja tietysti pelasimme bingoa, mitä koskaan ei saa unohtaa.

Uutena on sitten meillä tämä oma televisiokanava. Asukkaat voivat seurata kanavalla kahdeksan Poke-la-huoneesta lähetettyä ohjelmaa omissa huoneissaan. Charlie ja Leo lopettivat sitten viikon mukavalla rennolla musiikilla. Kiitos kaikille taas tällä kertaa.

4. elokuuta

Elokuu oli jo hyvällä alulla ja heti alkoivat sääkanavat kertoa, että ensimmäinen pyörremyrsky oli tulossa Atlantilla, tosin vielä kaukana. On todella ihmeellistä, että luonto aloittaa askareensa melkein aina samaan aikaan.

Perjantai oli tavallinen urheilupäivä ja ilta-päivän kahvitilaisuudessa soitti meille hauritaitelija Rauno Laajalehto kaunista musiikkia. Ja korkeatasoinen musiikki vain

jatkuu lauantaina, kun trio Kukkamaa, Kuparinen ja Hedlund ilahduttivat meitä iltapäivällä. Kiitos paljon!

Sunnuntaina pitivät Kotikirkon nuoret kauniin ja musiikkirikkaan hartaustilaisuuden, jonka johti Miko Puustelli. Maanantain aloitimme kuten tavallista taas kuntollemalla tuolla Pokela-huoneessa, ja aamuaskareiden ja lounaan jälkeen ilta-päivällä Lydia ja Charlie viihdyttivät meitä laululla ja musiikilla.

Viikko jatkuu pankkimatkalla ja videon katselulla. Ilta-päivän kahvitilaisuus hoidettiin pitkästä aikaa levy-musiikilla, koska kaikki meidän vakituiset avustajamme olivat estyneitä saapumaan. Pastori Hukka piti myös ehtoollispuheksen meidän englanninkielisille asukkaillemme.

Helping Hands oli auttamassa keskellä viikkoa, että elämä edes hetkeksi olisi kevyempää, mikä aina on kalliarvoista meille kaikille. Lounaan jälkeen lähdimme Mallille ostoksille, ja saimme vietä mukavan ja viileän hetken ihmisvilinässä. Ehdimme sieltä pois vasta kolmen jälkeen, mutta kahvi oli vielä kuumaa ja saimme myös kuunnella hetken pastori Hukkaa.

Torstai ja tavallinen Publixin ostosmatka ja lukuhetki sen päälle. Ilta-päivällä sitten alkoivat taas kuoroharjoitukset Henry Forsterin johdolla, ja toivotaan että saadaan lisää kuorolaisia, kun joukko alkaa hieman harveta. Charlie ja Leo soittivat kahviajan ja taas yksi viikko tästä kuumasta kesästä oli takana päin.

Kiitos kaikille avusta. Voikaa hyvin.

Lepokotiterveisin JUHANI

Kuolleita

Lauri J. Sipilä

FITCHBURG, MA - Lauri J. Sipilä, 89, 435 Rollstone St., kuoli heinäk. 22, 2000 Highland Long Term Care Center:ssä pitkän sairauden muramana.

Hän oli syntynyt maalisk. 12, 1911 Fitchburgissa Wäinö ja Olga (Waikko) Sipilän poikana. Fitchburg High Schoolista hän pääsi 1928 ja Biesel Engineering Schoolista New Yorkissa 1933.

Sipilä vietti lapsuuvuotensa Fitchburgissa ja asui sitten 25 vuoden ajan Beacon, NY:ssä. Hän työskenteli 28 vuoden ajan Texaco Research Center:ssä Beaconissa.

Edesmennyt palasi Fitchburgiin 1967 jäätyään eläkkeelle. Hän kuului Elm St. Lähetysseurakuntaan ja oli Fitchburg Historical Societyn sekä Taidemuseon jäsen. Hän oli ollut Fin-nish Cultural Center at Fitchburg State College ja Finnish Center at Saima Park järjestöjen jäsen. Hän kuului niinkään Friends of the Fitchburg Public Library ja Friends of Coggsall Park järjestöihin.

Sipilä oli erinomainen puunkaivertaja.

Kaipaamaan jäi puoliso Signe A. (Antila) Sipilä; poika William L. Sipilä, Sterling; sekä sisarusten lapsia.

Veli Arvo Sipilä kuoli useita vuosia sitten.

Bosk Funeral Home, 85 Blossom St., toimitti hautaamisen Forest Hill hautausmaahan.

Vieno Huhtala

ASHBURNHAM, MA - Vieno Wilma (Tirronen) Sussbauer Huhtala, 80, kuoli heinäk. 20, 2000 University of Mass/Memorial sairaalassa Worcesterissa sairauden seurauksena.

Hän oli syntynyt maalisk. 22, 1920 Ashburnhamissa Uno ja Wilma (Sohlman) Tirronen tyttärenä ja oli asunut paikkakunnalla elinikänsä. Hän oli Cushing Academyn kasvatti.

Edesmennyt oli työskennellyt monia vuosia hallintoapulaishena Leominsterin sairaalassa ja Social Security virastossa.

Kaipaamaan jäi puoliso Keijo Huhtala; kolme poikaa, John Sussbauer 3., Atlanta, GA, Walter E. Sussbauer, Ashburnham ja James H. Sussbauer, Berthoud, CO; ja viisi lastenlasta.

Edesmenneen ensimmäinen puoliso John J. Sussbauer Jr. kuoli 1973.

John A. Bosk Funeral Home, 33 R Main St., huolehti hilausudessa toimitetusta hautaamisesta.

Vieno R. Aho

FITCHBURG, MA - Vieno R. (Hautanen) Aho, 84, 29 Merriam Parkway, kuoli heinäk. 22, 2000 Leominsterin sairaalassa kotonaan saamansa sairauksien seurauksena. Hän oli 1984 kuolleen Leo Ahon leski.

Hän oli syntynyt syysk. 14, 1915 West Rindgessä (NH) John ja Aino (Kantola) Hautanen tyttärenä. Hän pääsi Conant High Schoolista (Jaffrey, NH) 1932 ja 1934 Keene Normal Schoolista (nykyinen Keene State College). Fitchburgissa hän asui monia vuosia.

Edesmennyt työskenteli 30 vuoden ajan entisen Independent Lock Co:n palveluksessa ennen kuin jäi eläkkeelle 1965.

Hän kuului Suomalaiseen Kultaisen Iän Kerhoon.

Kaipaamaan jäi kaksi tytärtä, Nancy R. Fors ja Priscilla J. Conry, kumpikin Fitchburg; kaksi siskoa, Elma Miller, Cherry Valley ja Eleanor Mäki, Jaffrey; viisi lastenlasta; 11 lastenlasten lasta; ja monia sisarusten lapsia.

Veli Wäinö Hautanen kuoli 1966.

Aubuchon-Moorcroft Funeral Home, 132 Woodland St., toimitti hautaamisen Glenwood hautausmaahan Ashbyssa.

Francis Hammar

HOLDEN, MA - Francis G. Hammar, 85, 144 Paugus Road, kuoli elok. 4, 2000 sairauden seurauksena.

Hän oli syntynyt Worcesterissa John A. ja Alina (Peterson) Hammarin poikana. Holdenin hän muutti 25 vuotta sitten. Hän oli Worcesterin North High Schoolin kasvatti.

Hammar oli työskennellyt työjohtajana Norton Co:n timanttituotanto-osastolla. Eläkkeelle hän jäi 1981 takanaan 47 palveluvuotta.

Edesmennyt oli kuulunut Sibelius Singers kuoroon. Hän nautti puutarhanhoidosta ja lintujen seuraamisesta.

Kaipaamaan jäi poika John C. Hammar, Lynnwood, WA; tytär Nancy E.H. Austin, Holden; sisko Doris C. Liimatalen, Melbourne, FL; yksi lapsenlapsi; sekä sisarusten lapsia.

Puoliso Elmi A. (Mäki) Hammar kuoli 1979.

Nordgren, Carrigan, Mangsen Memorial Chapel, 300 Lincoln St., Worcester, toimitti hautaamisen Worcesterin Hope hautausmaahan.

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Fitchburg, MA

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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 11:00-12:00 pyhäkoulu ja aikuisten raamattutunti.

New Ipswich, NH

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Armas Äijälä

kuoli 94-vuotiaana 24. kesäk. 2000 Lantanassa, (FL). Hän oli syntynyt Kurussa Suomessa. Lantanalla hän oli asunut 15 vuotta, ja sitä ennen New Ipswichissä (NH).

Edesmenneen puoliso Hilja Erkkilä Äijälä; poika Leo Äijälä; ja tytär Aili (Richard) Hendrickx olivat kuolleet aikaisemmin.

Kaipaamaan jäivät tyttäret Helen (Michael) Campbell, Tampa, FL ja Nancy (James) Andrews, Bullhead City, AZ; 7 lastenlasta; 6 lastenlasten lasta; ja veli Onni Äijälä.

Hautajaiset pidettiin 30. kesäk. 2000 Bablone-Stephenson hautausmaastossa, 1004 South Dixie Highway, Lantana.



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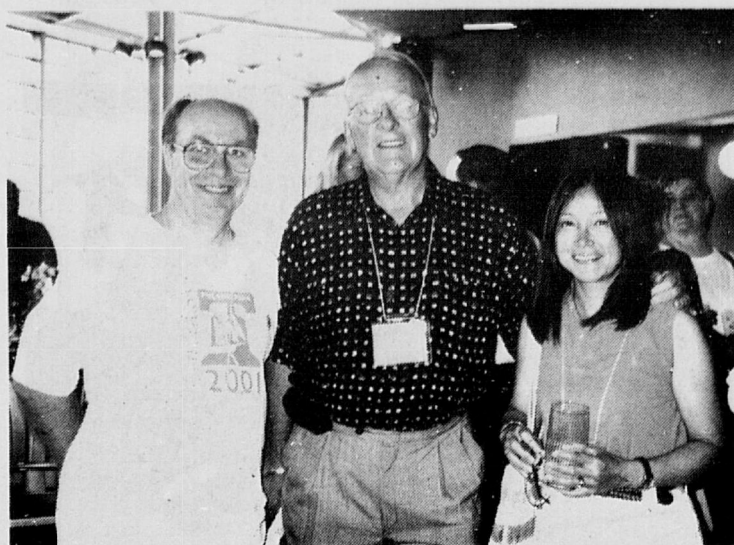
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Finn Grand Fest 2000

Toronto • July 13 - 16



FinnFest USA 2001 president Ari Aho, left, with Bo Long who just retired as Finnair's Area Vice President, the Americas, and his wife Michiyo.



Musician Jukka Kuoppamäki, right, with his daughter Taiga.



Anneli Halonen, Cultural Counselor at the Finnish Embassy, dancing with Pertti Pesonen, former Suomi-Seura chairman.



Finn Grand Fest 2000 president Hans Myrskog and Elsi Hetemäki-Olander, former vice speaker of Finnish Parliament.



FinnFest USA board member Marianne Wargelin (who also happens to be the daughter of former Suomi College president, Rev. Raymond Wargelin) flanked by Finland's Archbishop Jukka Paarma and Rev. Ilkka Mäkelä, of NY.



Finn Grand Fest 2000 vice president Leena Petäjä.



FinnFest USA president Carol Pärssinen, left, and director and secretary Nancy Riikonen.



Pauline and John Kiltinen, sponsors of the wonderful symphony concert.



Even Joulupukki came down from the Arctic Circle.



It wouldn't be a proper FinnFest if polka dancing wasn't included...



Former FinnFest USA director Lloyd Hannula, right, with his wife Joyce at the banquet.

The Finnish-American

RAIVAAJA

A great cultural festival!

By Roy Helander

It was one of the best for this commentator and his wife. We started early, spending a night on the way of leisurely travel. After arrival on Sunday, I cased the joint, so to speak, and discovered a wonderful park which opened to the street on one side, and was enclosed on the other three by the city hall, an educational building as well as a mall-hotel-public library complex. A grove of trees shut off city sounds, a flat level area was the home of the Tori, and an excavated area at the rear provided a fine stage with amphitheater seating plus a reflecting pool which was drained before the food tent went up.

Our only disappointment came Monday when another couple and we waited in vain for a bus for a scheduled all day trip. A phone call revealed that it had been cancelled and we had been put on the next day's tour. But by the time the week was over, we got our money back, since their plans for our tours did not jibe with our plans for how we wanted to spend the day.

Esto 2000

While perusing the bulletin boards of the adjacent Toronto Center of the Arts, I discovered that the Estonians were gathering here for a Gala Concert of their International Estonian Festival which occurs every four years.

Tickets were available and so on Monday evening I found myself among 900 Estonians, including their President Lennart Meri and his wife enjoying music-making by a varied list of Estonian artists.

The vocal attractions were three members of the Estonian Opera and a runo-singer who presented *rekilaul* from the first Millennium B.C. There were nine pianists and five string players. And yet, outside of the runo songs and one piano piece, there was no Estonian music on the program. The artists demonstrated that they were world class musicians playing works by Grieg, Handel, Ravel, Saint Saens, etc. Each performer always bowed to

the president in his box.

My ear was delighted but my eye was amazed at the concert wear of the younger performers. The first pianist came out in black pants to the mid-calf, a black jumper plus a pair of bright red shoes. Another pianist wore a garish enormous print of yellow and red which somehow accented her rear end as she played, and the soloist in Liszt's Hungarian Fantasy wore a long dress with a slit to the upper thigh which revealed the entire leg as she played.

If I heard no Estonian music that night, the loss was more than made up the next evening when I attended a concert by the Tallinn Boys Choir in the same hall. Led by their director Lydia Rahula and her son, Tomi Rahula, the group of approximately 50 voices entered from the back of the auditorium singing their theme song, an Italian 15th century hymn.

They continued by singing a Mendelssohn Kyrie for two choirs while remaining in the aisles among the audience. Processing to the stage they continued with a dozen songs by Estonian composers. Clad in black trousers with wine colored suit coats, they changed from white shirts and bow ties to T-shirts for the second half of the concert when the program changed to Negro Spirituals, African folk-songs as well as Estonia folk songs such as "Pesupese-mine" (Washday Song) and "Kula kuuleb" (The village hears you).

It was an excellent choir and the response of the audience was overwhelming. I learned that there are 12,000 Estonians in the Toronto area, the largest such group outside of Estonia itself.

Registration is open

We discovered that registration would take place at this very same Toronto Center for the Arts, which turned out to be a central point of the whole Finn Grand Fest 2000. The building included the 900 seat concert hall mentioned above plus two smaller halls, space for the art show, a won-

derful reception area off the balcony level plus a sizeable lobby.

In addition the circular drive and adjacent road were a fine pick up spot for the tour and shuttle buses. The center also had several bars from which you could buy coffee or drinks whenever the halls were in use. Uniformed pages showed you to your seats, even at all free events, for they required tickets to prevent people from saving seats for each other. Two stagehands performed all instrument relocation at every concert, adding a taste of class to all events.

I decided this year to give up on lectures and concentrate on the musical programs. However, on Wednesday, there was a separate all day seminar on Roots in Karelia which I decided to attend. Sponsored by the Karelians in Toronto, it took place in the Council Chambers of the North York City Hall.

Leo Vuosalo, a retired professor of history and political science spoke on how Finland survived as an independent nation from two wars. Vuosalo fought in those wars so his comments were filled with personal remembrances of the time.



Professor Kauko Sipponen
photo: Roy Helander

The next speaker was professor Kauko Sipponen, the Chancellor of Tampere University who spoke on the Karelia-issue from contemporary perspectives. I learned that tens of thousands of Karelians had moved into the area between St. Petersburg and Moscow to escape Swedish taxes. They still speak a Finnish that can be under-



Rientolan Kakstuliset at opening ceremonies. The group led workshops and even taught you to dance.
photo: Roy Helander

stood. There are hardly any Finns in the Karelian area today for 400,000 Karelians fled into Finland. Today there are about 500,000 Karelians in Finland, 80,000 in Russia and 700,000 in the rest of the world.

The Soviet Socialist Karelian Republic was to the north of Lake Ladoga. The southern areas belonged to Leningrad. The Finnish population largely opposes the return of Karelia to Finland although the matter keeps being revived by various groups.

After lunch, the third speaker was Ritva Heikkilä who told of her personal experiences at the beginning of the Winter War when the Russians began to advance on her home town of Terijoki which was on the border. I was not able to stay for the last speaker, Prof. Aarno Strömmer, who was to present the perceptions of the war veterans on the Karelia question.

The musical intervals shown in their program did not materialize so that it was rather a long, factual day.

The first theater presentation

The first reaction to the far-fetched story of the "Shipbuilder" was disbelief, when I read about the play in the RAIVAAJA. But since I'm a theater nut, I decided to go.

I must say that the author, Ken Mitchell, had written some fine text for the piece. Telling the story in short

scenes with narration by a sort of Greek chorus, six townswomen who spoke largely in unison, and the spirit of his daughter, the tale became believable.

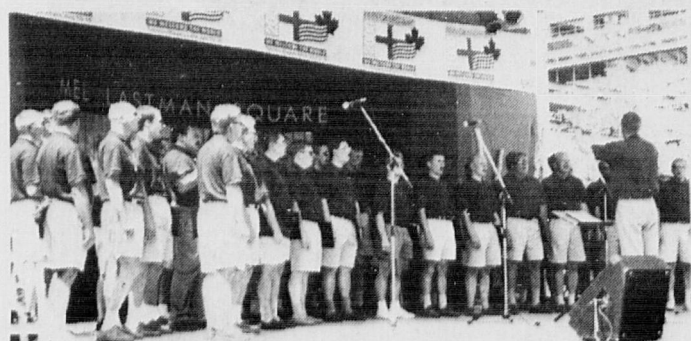
The amateur cast of the Toronto Finnish Theater, directed by Anja Karppinen, did an excellent job, particularly Esko Laakso as the mad (?) genius who built the ship.

There are always difficulties when non-Finns try to play Finnish characters, but that peril was avoided for in this work, Jaanus, the hero, was the only one speaking with a Finnish accent (his brother to a lesser degree). The rest of the roles were all English speaking Canadians. I was momentarily thrown off by the chorus at first, for from their costumes I assumed they were Finns, but I learned later that they represented the English speaking town-folks who at first wondered at Janus' foibles and later took action against him.

The programs begin officially

Following the noon time parade and opening exercises, the Fest was off and running. For the next four days you could not turn around without bumping into one group or other performing either on the outdoor stage, on some level of the mall, in the library or city hall, or in the lobby of the arts center. All this in addition to formal, ticketed events.

turn to FESTIVAL page 10



The Tallinn Kauppakorkeakoulun Mieskuoro dropping into opening ceremonies from Esto 2000.
photo: Roy Helander



The cast of the play "The Shipbuilder" after their performance.



New FinnFest USA president Carol Pärssinen, left, with newly elected director Sadie Mursu and re-elected director Marianne Wargelin.

Carol Pärssinen elected FinnFest USA president Sadie Mursu new director

TORONTO - FinnFest USA has a new president, Carol E. Pärssinen, of Rochester Hills (MI). She is only the second person to lead the organization since it was established in 1983. Pärssinen was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Robert E. Selväälä, of Owatonna (MN), last summer due to an illness which was followed by his death this April.

Pärssinen was the vice president of FinnFest USA '98, and was elected to FinnFest USA board in 1997. After schooling (she is an engineer), Pärssinen, a native of Michigan, lived more than a decade in the Boston area. However, last fall she moved back to her home state after taking a job in the greater Detroit area.

New director

Sadie Mursu, of Long Beach (CA), was elected to the board at the FinnFest USA annual meeting held July 13 during the Finn Grand Fest 2000.

Mursu has no Finnish roots herself but is married to a Finn and has long been involved in her local Finnish community. Currently she is president of the Long Beach chapter of Finlandia Foundation. She served as the program chairman for the FinnFest USA '93 in Thousand Oaks (CA).

Re-elected to the board were Pärssinen and Marianne Wargelin, of Minneapolis (MN).

E. Norman Westerberg, of Bellevue (WA), who chose not

to run for a re-election was thanked for his dedication and hard work. On behalf of the board Pärssinen presented him with a kantele.

"This kantele serves as a symbol of the Finnish community. We are a very diverse community. This kantele is put together in an American fashion, of pieces of various woods," she commented.

"I wonder what they expect me to do at the next FinnFest?" Westerberg said laughing as he accepted the gift.

Next festivals

Ari Aho, president of FinnFest USA '01, talked briefly of next year's festival. It will take place July 26-29, 2001, at the campus of Villanova University in Pennsylvania.

"The college has brand new dormitories with air conditioning, so there will be no problems with heat," he stated.

Currently they have 40 members working with committees. Various grant applications have been sent, and some have already been received.

FinnFest USA '02 will be held in the Twin Cities of Minnesota where the first FinnFest was held in 1983.

"Presently we have a committee of eight, and we have entered in negotiations with the University of Minnesota to be a co-sponsor of the festival," explained Marianne Wargelin.

At this point the committee is aiming for the first or second turn to PRESIDENT page 11



Suomi-Seura chairman Pertti Paasio, center, with Benita and Norman Westerberg.

News from Finland

Helsinki air is cleanest among Europe's metropolises

Though there might be some who question the use of the term metropole in this context, the greater Helsinki area has emerged along with Stockholm as the urban area with the cleanest air quality amongst European conurbations of at least 1 million people. Greater Helsinki just about scrapes past the one million barrier.

Europe's major cities have four to five times the concentration level of inhalable particles as Helsinki, according to an extensive international study. In large quantities, these microscopic particles have been shown to have links with cardiac illness and deaths, particularly among young infants. In addition, high particle concentrations increase cancer risk and bring on asthma symptoms in children.

According to Matti Jantunen, a research professor at the National Public Health Institute, there is little room for complacency as Helsinki is nevertheless the most polluted city in Finland, and is only matched by certain parts of Turku and Tampere.

He can immediately think of two means of reducing the particle emissions. "The best means in Helsinki would be to reduce emissions from diesel engines by stepping up vehicle inspection standards," he says, and he goes on to propose changes in the fleet of city buses to use natural gas as fuel. (HS)

Air Force satisfied with Hornets in spite of fuel problems

Faults in fuel systems have prevented the Finnish Air Force from reaching their hoped-for readiness and capacity targets with the new American F-18C/D Hornet fighters, although the Defense Forces regard the fighter project as an overall success story.

Apparently the fuel glitch is technically a very complex issue, and whilst the basic cause of the problem has been located, it will take time to rectify it. One Hornet was damaged earlier in a fire caused by faults in the fuel system.

There have been other technical failings, for example in the onboard pulse-doppler radar systems. As a result, the fighter's readiness percentage has slipped below 60 percent, where the interim target figure was set at 65 percent. After final handover, the figure will be raised to more than 70 percent.

Nevertheless, it is perhaps churlish to talk of technical snafus in the more than FIM 18 billion project, which culminated last week in a ceremony at Kuorevesi. The Air Force took delivery of the last machine in the order calling for 57 one-seater fighter-interceptor jets and 7 two-seat trainers. (HS)

Finance Ministry opposes moves for tax cuts for cultural sponsorships

Finland's Ministry of Finance does not want to make cultural sponsorships completely tax deductible. The Ministry has not considered the expansion of the tax deductibility to cover donations by made by individuals and corporations for sports, culture and charity.

Currently, the Finnish Tax Administration has a list of more than 100 foundations that corporations can donate money to and deduct their contributions from their corporate taxes. Such a possibility is not open to private citizens. (HS)

Tarja Halonen to co-chair U.N. Millennium Summit

Namibian President Sam Nujoma and Finland's recently installed first woman president, Tarja Halonen, will jointly preside over a three-day Millennium Summit session of the General Assembly next month, it was decided last week.

In a resolution adopted without a vote, the assembly approved detailed plans for the organization of the summit, expected to draw heads of state or government from most of the world body's members and be the largest such gathering held to date.

The resolution said the head of state of the country which presided over the last assembly - Namibia - and the head of state of the country that will preside over this year's Assembly - Finland - "will jointly preside."

The Millennium Summit will run from Sept. 6-8, and the overarching theme will be "The role of the United Nations in the 21st Century."

The president of the 2000 Assembly, which opens Sept. 5, will be former Finnish Prime Minister Harri Holkeri (Conservative). (STT)

Finland says Russian sub poses little risk to Finns

Finnish officials assured Finns on Monday they would not need to take precautionary measures against possible radiation leaks from a Russian nuclear-powered submarine crippled in the Barents Sea, northeast of Finland.

Russia's navy was trying to rescue more than 100 sailors trapped in the stricken submarine in international waters northeast of the port of Murmansk at a depth of around 150 meters (500 feet).

"According to the estimate of the Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority (STUK), the radiation hazards of the Russian nuclear submarine accident would not, even in the worst case, cause a situation in Finland that would require protection measures," STUK said in a statement.

If the troubled vessel could not be raised, it would take decades for it to become thoroughly corroded and for its reactors to come into contact with the sea water.

"In that case, radioactive material would begin to dissolve slowly into the water," STUK said and added: "The (radioactivity) levels would be very small, except for in the immediate vicinity of the submarine." (Reuters)

Bits and pieces

The United States has overtaken Finland as the country with the highest number of Internet users per capita. While Finland has 121 end-users to every 1,000 people the United States has 134 end-users. (AL)

Astrid Thors (Swedish People's Party), member of the European parliament, says that Internet trade should not only be viable for large and established businesses and that efforts should be made through clear legislation to protect consumers and encourage them to make Internet purchases from smaller companies. (KL)

Finnish telecom operator Sonera says it is withdrawing its offer to buy a 34 percent stake of national broadcaster YLE's Digita unit as it wants to reserve the option to apply for a digital TV licence in Finland. (HS)

Finnish telecom equipment maker Nokia said it would buy American internet technology company DiscoveryCom for some 1.4 billion markkas, payable in Nokia stock. (KL)

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.

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Finn Grand Fest 2000 reflections

To the editor:

The Grand Fest in Toronto was true to its name. One can only imagine the amount of volunteer hours necessary to plan and implement a festival of this scale. It takes many people with good business sense, great diplomacy and team leadership skills and the fortitude to keep it all together.

One could go on, but in the end when all is counted, I am sure that the participants, the planners and registrants are richer for the experience. Registrants can be thankful that these festivals are held to keep up our rich culture and heritage.

We enjoyed the highly professional performers and the pleasure of meeting old friends from previous FinnFests. At times, it was challenging to locate the program sites. But with perseverance, we read the program book, cross-referenced landmarks and navigated a course on the map. We made our notes and found the performance locations, although more signs would have been helpful.

We decided to extend our stay to see more of Toronto. The hotel front desk quoted us the same group rate that the FinnFest received. One thing we questioned was that our hotel charge through the

FinnFest organizers was almost double for what we paid after the festival.

After learning of this, we inquired from the organizers about it, but no one had anything to do with that. The response was "I had nothing to do with that." We were not happy with this type of answer, so we made another inquiry to the Festival chair. It was again the same response, so called "passing of the buck."

We felt betrayed and hurt, that perhaps we have been taken advantage off. Or were the FinnFest organizers taken advantage off? The organizers blamed the hotel for overcharging the FinnFest. The latter, however, seems very unlikely of a reputable worldwide hotel chain to do anything but the very best in serving their clients. They did serve us in a most courteous and helpful way.

The issue of the room charges we paid to the Finn Grand Fest is secondary to the fact that the organizers had not been forthcoming with the facts. It left us thinking whom we are going to believe, particularly when committee members had conflicting stories. Also note that registrants who made their own Finn Fest room reservations, without organizer assistance, received the lower group rate. When the dust settles, and all is accounted for, we may even receive our requested refund.

The spirit of Finnfest naturally will remain with us and this incident will not overshadow the joy of the entire grand event. Thank you to all

the kind folks for your hard work for making it happen.

Harry & Anneli Johnson
Quincy, MA

Below Rollstone Hill

Growing up in the Finnish Quarter of
Fitchburg, Massachusetts

A historical novel by
Paula Ivaska Robbins

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CANTERBURY, CT - This is a reminder for those of you who have been putting off making your reservations for Finn-Funn Weekend, being held from November 3-5.

The location this year is the Sheraton Colonial Hotel and Golf Club in Wakefield (MA), a short distance north of Boston. The Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury is hosting the weekend, chaired by Anita and Jack Smiley. The hotel is completing an \$8 million renovation project, adding to the comfort and beauty of the facility.

Who's the Dumbest?

The various Nordic ethnicities make deprecatory remarks about one another based on old stereotypes, according to Professor Peter Gundeluck of Copenhagen University in an essay: "Joking Relationships and National Identities in Scandinavia" in the publication *Acta Sociologica*.

These often deal with up-tightness, drunkenness and stupidity. The jokes are much the same often, only with different national identities inserted.

Only one of the jokes cited in this essay included Finns:

"Two Danes, two Finns, two Norwegians and two Swedes were shipwrecked on a desert island. Before their rescue, the Danes formed a cooperative, the Finns cut down the forest, the Norwegians built a fishing trawler, and the Swedes stood around waiting to be introduced."

The Swedes got their share of hits among the jokes excerpted. To wit: "Two men are sitting on a bench. One is drunk. The other one is also a Swede."

-Harri Siitonen, from Turku, Finland. On to Hämeenlinna!

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Remember to make your Finn-Funn Weekend reservations

The rate for the weekend is \$183.25 for a double and \$243.58 for a single. These are per person rates and include two nights lodging, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning, banquet dinners on Friday and Saturday evening, use of meeting rooms and facilities, and all taxes and gratuities.

A \$12 registration fee covers the dances and entertainment

on Friday and Saturday evenings, program on Saturday morning and afternoon; and miscellaneous expenses related to mailings, phone calls, and registration materials.

Commuter rates are also available for those wishing to come for the day on Saturday or for the banquet on Friday evening. There is also a special rate available for those who wish to stay over on

Thursday or Sunday evening.

The music on Friday evening will be provided by Bert Stromholm, and Bert and Brent Buswell will be combining their talents for Saturday evening's program. This music is for everyone, whether it be for dancing or just plain listening. As always, a varied program is being planned for the day on Saturday.

There are 90 rooms being held for the group, and reservations received after those rooms are reserved will be on a space-available basis.

Don't miss out on the fun. If you wish to receive a flyer and reservation form, contact Jack and Anita Smiely, 42 Benjamin Road, Preston, CT 06365; phone 860-889-7820; or e-mail at smileys-place@juno.com

Or if you have simply forgotten to make your reservation, this will serve as a reminder to do so.

FAHS

Kalenteri

CALIFORNIA

Sept. 7 - Finnish Language & Culture Classes begin, Loyola Marymount University, 7900 Loyola Blvd, Los Angeles. Instructor Dr Tuula Stark. More info: Division of Continuing Education, Loyola Marymount University, 7900 Loyola Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90045; tel 310-338-1971; fax 310-338-2706; <http://conted.lmu.edu/conted/>

Sept. 9 - Kaleva Lodge 21, Ski Club & FAHA Annual Family Day Picnic, 11 am, Finnish American Home Association, 197 Verano Ave, Sonoma.

Sept. 23 - 'Sibelius - The Man, The Genius,' lecture by Dr Jeanne Doty, 4 pm, Norwegian Seamen's Church, 1035 S Beacon St, San Pedro. For more info: 310-452-7667. Sponsored by LAFF, LBFF & the Norwegian Seamen's Church.

CONNECTICUT

Aug. 20 - Annual Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale, 8-11 am, Aura Hall, 51 Lillibridge Ave, Voluntown. For more info: 860-376-0052.

Sept. 7 - Finnish American Heritage Society meeting, 7 pm, Finnish Hall, 76 North Canterbury Rd (Rt 169), Canterbury. Coffee 6 pm.

Sept. 22 - Finnish American Heritage Society's new members' night, 7 pm, Finnish Hall, Canterbury.

MAINE

Aug. 20 - Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine Heritage Center open house, 2-4 pm, Maple St, West Paris.

Aug. 27 - Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine Heritage Center open house, 2-4 pm, West Paris.

Sept. 17 - Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine monthly meeting, 2 pm, Heritage Center, West Paris.

MASSACHUSETTS

Aug. 20 - 32nd annual Chicken Barbecue, 1 pm, Sovittaja Park, Finn Park Rd, Rutland. Tickets available advance sale only. Reservations: 508-853-5174.

Aug. 26 - Myllärit Karelian Folk Band concert, 6 pm, Richard Kent Recital Hall, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg. Social following concert at Finnish Center at Saima Park. For more info: 508-829-5181. Tickets available at Raivaaaja.

- 'While the Juhannus Sauna is Warming,' short comedy from Finland presented in English by The Finn Players of Canterbury (CT), 7:30 pm, Sovittaja Park, Rutland. Followed by refreshments & dancing to music of The HiLites.

Aug. 27 - Myllärit street concert, 1:30-3 pm, Faneuil Hall Marketplace, Boston.

Aug. 28 - Reception for Myllärit, 5 pm, Lloyd & Joyce Hannula's, East Rd, Westminster. Potluck supper with Finnish & Karelian foods. RSVP 978-874-0629.

Aug. 29 - Dance, 7:30-11:30 pm, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg. Music by Dori Wells Duo.
- Myllärit concert, 8:30 pm, Johnny D's, Somerville. Info: 617-776-7450.

Sept. 2 - Knights & Ladies of Kaleva 4th Annual Arts & Crafts Fair, 9 am-3 pm, Kaleva Campground, Fort Pond, Lancaster. Space available for artists & crafters. Info: 582-4508 or 582-6045.

- Dance, 7:30-11:30 pm, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg. Music by Dori Wells Duo.

Sept. 9 - Beef Stew Dinner (6 pm) & Dance (7:30 pm), Sovittaja Park, Rutland. Music by Ed Hendela. Dinner reservations (deadline Sept. 6): 508-842-8468.

Sept. 13 - Finnish Center at Saima Park membership meeting, 7:30 pm, Saima Park, Fitchburg.

Sept. 16 - Annual Kaleva Fall Fair, 9 am-2 pm, Kalevaiset Lodge, Kaleva Rd, Littleton.

Sept. 17 - Fall Tori, Finnish Center at Saima Park, Fitchburg.

Sept. 24 - Smörgåsbord Dinner, 12 noon-1 pm, Kaleva Camp, Fort Pond, Perry Rd, Lancaster. Hosted by Knights & Ladies of Kaleva.

Oct. 1 - Accordion Fest featuring Nils Lundin & his Roving Band of New England Accordionists, 2 pm, Sovittaja Park, Rutland. Refreshments & dancing.

Nov. 3-5 - Finn-Funn Weekend, Sheraton Colonial Hotel and Golf Club, Wakefield. Sponsored by Finnish American Heritage Society of Canterbury (CT). For info, contact Anita & Jack Smiley, 42 Benjamin Rd, Preston CT 06365; e-mail smiley.s.place@juno.com

MICHIGAN

Aug. 20 - Finnish Center Open House, 1-4 pm, Finnish Center, 35200 W Eight Mile, Farmington Hills. Sponsored by FCA Board.

Aug. 25 - Kalevala Study Group, 7 pm, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills.

Aug. 27 - Finnish Center Open House, 1-4 pm, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills. Sponsored by Education & Mailing Committees.

Sept. 6 - Finnweavers, 10 am, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills.

Sept. 9 - Kalevala Study Group, 10 am, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills.
- Soittoniekat Jam Session, 3-6 pm, Finnish Center, Farmington Hills.

MINNESOTA

Sept. 8-13 - Finnish Fall Adult Week, Salolampi Language Village, northeast of Bemidji. Registration info: 800-450-2214.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sept. 2 - Myllärit Karelian Folk Band concert, 5 pm, Powerhouse Café, Lebanon. Info: 602-298-5236.

Sept. 17 - Myllärit concert, 4 pm, Lyme Congregational Church, Lyme. Info: 802-333-9598.

NEW YORK

Aug. 30 - Jill Seifers, voice, with Mika Pohjola, 7:30-10 pm, Caravan of Dreams, 405 East 6th St, New York.

Sept. 24 - Mika Pohjola Trio, Cornelia Street Café, 29 Cornelia St, New York. Shows at 9 & 10:30 pm.

Sept. 30 - Finnish War Veterans in America Annual Venison Dinner Dance, 6 pm, Lomala Hall, Hopewell Jct. Music by Hendela with vocals by Autio. (Note correction of date) Info: 203-438-1890 or jmkirk@attglobal.net

Oct. 13 - Finlandia Foundation New York Metropolitan Chapter program evening, 8 pm, 6th floor, Central Presbyterian Church, 593 Park Ave at 64th St, New York.

PENNSYLVANIA

July 26-29 - FinnFest USA 2001, Villanova University, near Philadelphia. Info: Phone 856-489-1594; FAX 856-489-1106; e-mail: mail@finnfest2001.org; web site: www.finnfest2001.org

VERMONT

Aug. 18 - Myllärit Karelian Folk Band street concert, 4-5 pm, Church St, Burlington.

- Special Karelian pre-Myllärit concert dinner, 6-7:30 pm, Full Moon Cafe, Stratford. Reservations required. Contact 802-765-4480 or mbaldwin@sover.net

- Myllärit concert, 8 pm, Barrett Hall, Stratford. For more info: 802-333-4487.

Aug. 20 - Meet the Myllärit band picnic sponsored by Project Harmony, Waitsfield. For more info: 802-496-4545.

- Vermont Finnish American Society annual picnic, 10 am-2 pm, West Hill Recreation Area, West Hill Rd, Ludlow. White Elephant Auction, music. Bring hot dish, salad or dessert to share. Coffee provided. More info, directions: 802-775-6303 or liisavt@aol.com

Aug. 23 - Finnish & Russian children's stories told by Myllärit band members, 3-4 pm, Peabody Library, Rt 113, Post Mills.

- Meet the Myllärit tea hour, Peabody Library, Post Mills.

Aug. 25 - Myllärit concert, 7 pm, United Methodist Church, Middlesex. For more info: 802-223-2201.

Aug. 26 - Myllärit concert, 1-1:45 pm, Vermont Public Radio's annual picnic, Meadowlands, Hildene, Manchester. Info: 802-655-9451.

Sept. 2 - Myllärit mini-concert, 1:30 pm, Russian Renaissance Store, 61 Central St, Woodstock. Info: 802-457-9478 or novgorod2@aol.com

Sept. 7 - Myllärit concert, 8 pm, Coffee House, Johnson State College, Johnson. Info: 802-635-2356.

Sept. 14 - Myllärit Russian celebration & concert, 5 pm, Russian School, Middlebury College, Middlebury. Info: 802-443-2532.

Sept. 15 - Myllärit concert, 7:30 pm, Chandler Music Hall, Randolph. Info: 802-728-9878.

WASHINGTON

Sept. 8 - Finn Golf Tournament, Three Rivers Golf Course, Kelso. For more info contact Joe Eloheimo at 360-260-2587 or Wes Kovanen Koven at koven1@gte.net (note correction in e-mail address).

Events subject to change without notice

FESTIVAL

from page 6

The Finnish Gymnastics and Fitness Association presented an hour long program of gymnastics and dance. Made up of three separate groups from various parts of Finland, we enjoyed a group of older girls doing almost balletic pieces, younger girls livening up the proceedings with rock and roll type of movements and music and finally eight more mature performers who did take offs on *lavatanssit* and on folk steps. The dozens of bright costumes and expert lighting made it a pleasant time.

In the evening I attended a fine concert by the Toronto Finnish Chamber Choir "Vox Finlandiae" in the acoustically rich Concert Hall. They first sang four songs by North American composers Pieter Sigmundt and Paul Hietala (both conductors of the group), Andrea Hansen and Jooseppi Rippa whose "Kottimaanti ompt Suomi" had an excellent soloist in Erkki Simpanen.

Next came the Naantali Chamber Choir, a fine group of perhaps twenty voices, directed by Susanna Kuotola, singing four Finnish numbers. The two groups then combined for a group of three songs.

After intermission we heard a marvelous young Finnish-Canadian soprano, Carla Huhtanen, who sang four Finnish art songs by Kilpinen and Kuula, works that I have not heard for over twenty years, when every Finn town had a soprano who could handle these difficult pieces.

Next came the Kokkola Youth Choir, a group of 50 teenagers who sang perhaps the most difficult program of the evening, a group of Aulis Sallinen's "Songs from the Sea". Then all three choirs combined to present Merikanto's "Kesäilta" waltz with fine piano accompaniment, Peterson's "Hymn to Freedom" and, of course, the "Finlandia Hymn".

I bought the Toronto group's new CD and recommended it highly; it is called *Vox Finlandiae A Cappella*.

Friday

A recital by Maaningan Runoverat started my day at the Studio Theater. An audi-

ence of perhaps sixty had gathered to hear some poetry in Finnish, or hadn't they looked at their program, for as soon as the group of 10 began to recite, the exodus began, in groups of two or three, mumbling and stumbling in the dark, until there were only a third of us left when the lights came on at the end. The program of perhaps two dozen poems dealing with patriotism and love was excellent. The performers were a poetry club that meet to read and recite.

In the afternoon they began to bus us to a distant high school auditorium to hear the Finnish troubadour, Jukka Kuoppamäki, one of the stars of the festival. The sudden storm that had torn up the Tori at noon had also put out the traffic lights on the main drags, while an attempted suicide in a local subway station tied up the transportation underground.

Consequently the concert was delayed a bit in order to let folks arrive. And arrive they did, by the hundreds. Kuoppamäki and his excellent band sang over an hour of his hits and less than hits. However, they are all in the same style and rhythm, to the point that I was quite happy to have it end.

In the evening we gathered for the gala concert of the players from the Toronto Symphony led by guest Hannu Lintu, conductor of the Turku Symphony, who was tall and dark and handsome, reminding me somewhat of the early Finnish conductor

Robert Kajanus.

The program surprisingly began with Sibelius' "Finlandia" which sounded forth with majesty and resonance in the excellent acoustics of the hall. Lintu, who is yet another genius rising out of Jorma Panula's classes, leads with a clear and masterful baton technique. In the Sibelius Violin Concerto which followed, he was an admirable accompanist to Pietari Inkinen's dramatic playing. Inkinen seemed quite mature in not only technique but also in comprehension. He turned out to be quite an affable young man when I spoke to him at the reception after concert.

Following intermission, during which in a conversation with Miss Alanen, who teaches piano at Northwestern in Chicago, I had learned that the gray haired ladies of the Chicago matinee audiences had abided the music of Einojuhani Rautavaara recently. I was pleased to agree with them. The "Isle of Bliss" by that contemporary Finnish composer turned out to be pleasant although powerful music with melody and harmony that did not offend the ear. The concert continued with Sibelius' "Karelia Suite", familiar spirited music with a softer second movement.

The concert had been produced by Audrea Hansen, a violinist with the Toronto Symphony. In her childhood she had written a Finnish polka, which she developed and orchestrated into the fun piece that the group played for an encore. I thanked John Kiltinen and his wife for their extreme generosity in making funds available for this fine concert and I wish to repeat that gratitude here in print.

Saturday

The tori was back up and operating, including the tent selling Nanso nightware, which was a great delight to my wife. This morning we attended the Singing Strings concert, which is always a hit at FinnFests. The director

seemed to have but few Finnish speaking fiddlers, but the young musicians had learned many verses of very difficult Finnish texts and the show was a big success, as usual.

Assistance from visiting Finnish artists helped make it a worthy experience. Particularly the Finnish soprano Raita Karpo proved to be a hit with her singing of the Kalevala folk poetry.

We spent the rest of the afternoon at the Square hearing numerous groups on the stage, while sampling the food wares available at various tents and trucks which stopped on the nearby street.

We are not "Banquet" people, so we did not go to join 900 diners. We went to sauna and swimming instead.

Sunday

A concert on the staircase at the Concert Hall following the church services was sung by the Discantus Women's Choir from Helsinki, directed by Katarina Engström. This group of 30-40 ladies has been singing together since 1978 in the Vuosaari section of the city.

Their repertoire was probably the most varied of all the groups I heard here. They sang folk, comedy, tangos, old time hits as well as serious numbers. An excellent group!

A matinee concert combined the Male Choruses of Finnish Male Singers of North America, the Kronoby Male Choir of Finland as well as the Karskula Male Singers. A program of old familiar Finnish male repertoire was well sung and the big numbers really rang with over a hundred men on stage following the direction of their four directors.

The closing ceremony brought a full house to the Concert Hall once again. Jonathan, an usher who I had got to know during the week, said the Finns were fine attendants at all of the various functions. Only at the church service in the morning had the requirement of numbered tickets caused a little

consternation. He also explained that the configuration above the stage depicted organ pipes rising up into the rafters. Discussions throughout earlier concerts had convinced me they were missiles that had got stuck into the wall.

The final theater presentation

Unannounced in the early sendouts from the Grand Fest committee in February were two performances of "Seven Brothers" by the Nurmijärvi Kivi Festival Association, in an adaptation by Pekka Lounela, directed by Paavo Liski.

These are all strong names in Finnish theater, and I was sure of a fine performance, but I did not realize what a physically live and exhausting ordeal this must have been for the players, for they were everywhere, behind us, beside us, before us. The use of two narrators cut the long novel down into short scenes allowing the brothers to battle, to take a sauna bath, to escape the bulls to a large rock, to watch their sauna burn, to learn their ABC's.

The troupe has been playing this production for five years, and I was attending the very last performance anywhere. It was a great close to a fine week of Finnish culture at an amazingly high level.

And then...

As always at FinnFest, I met people I know and I was occasionally recognized from RAIVAAJA pictures by folks from all over the USA. My copy of Barbara Helsingius' new book of Finnish songs in English and Paula Robbins *Below Rollstone Hill* were both signed by the authors. I recommend both of them highly. Barbara's translations are clearly the work of a singer who knows where the accents must come and her selection of numbers is fine. Paula's novel about growing up in the Finnish quarter of Fitchburg is ever so familiar to us 2nd generationers.

Photos by RAIVAAJA unless otherwise stated



Conductor Hannu Lintu



SVoLI gymnast girls performing.



Helsinki City Folklore Group dancers.

photo: Roy Helander



Refreshment committee (from left), Anita Mattson, Lindsay Gwyther, Eva Hirvi and Barbara Fuller.

Sovittaja Park

Finnish Heritage Society

Bert Stromholm and Brent Buswell played for the dance at Sovittaja Park in Rutland, Mass., Saturday, July 29, at 7:30 p.m.

Tremendous dance music was played this evening by these two famous accordionists. They make an excellent team. The music was well balanced with Finnish, Swedish and a variety of other great numbers.

Brent played solo a few very fast polkas. Norma Belden

and Al Selinius each sang some of their special tunes. Norma sang in Swedish and Al's numbers were familiar ballroom dance tunes. This added to the program for the evening.

The refreshment committee included Eva Hirvi, her granddaughter Lindsay Gwyther, Anita Mattson and Barbara Fuller. They served a variety of delicious sandwiches and coffee and pulla during intermission. Every-

one enjoyed the refreshment.

Henry Hirvi and Robert Mattson were in charge of the ticket-selling at the door.

Lindsay, the Hirvi's granddaughter, had spent six weeks at the Finnish village Salolampi in Minnesota. She was a junior counselor. Her sister Tracy spent four weeks there also.

Both of the girls are excellent ice skaters. Lindsay Has

been on tour with the Colonials ice skating team from Acton. She is a precision ice skater and she and the team represented the U.S.A. on a tour to Italy this year. Last year they competed in Switzerland.

Lindsay will start school this fall at the Western Michigan University. Henry and Eva Hirvi can certainly be proud of their lovely grandchildren

and rightfully so. These youngsters, hopefully, will carry their Finnish heritage with them in future years.

The dance at Sovittaja draws to a close, and many of the patrons who attended this event are already looking forward to the next dinner and dance at Sovittaja Park. Our appreciation goes out to the organizers and volunteers at this great club. Nils Granfors



At one of the tables in the dining area during the intermission break are (from left) Edward and Selja Nummellin, Katy and Sovittaja President Barry Heiniluoma, and Litsa Stromholm.

Photos by Nils Granfors

Myllärit to perform in Fitchburg August 26

FITCHBURG, MA - The Karelian Folk Band Myllärit is returning to this city for a concert on Saturday, August 26, at 6 p.m. in the Richard Kent Recital Hall at Fitchburg State College.

There will be a social immediately following the concert at the Finnish Center at Saima Park, 61 Scott Rd.

Myllärit performs Karelian, Finnish and Russian folk music "with a world beat."

Formed in Russian Karelia in 1992, Myllärit started by playing only traditional tunes from Finland and Karelia. Finnish folk music inspired

them to become a traveling band and find their own way of doing music.

The band has become very popular in Karelia and beyond. It has toured Russia, Spain, Germany, Norway, Sweden and most often Finland where their live appearances include folk music festivals (Kihlaus in Rääkkylä, Kaustinen Folk Music Festival and Haapavesi Folk). In January 1999 the group was voted "best band of Folklandia Folk Cruise" out of 62 participating Finnish bands.

During 1998 and 1999 Myllärit had very successful con-

cert tours in Scotland (Edinburgh Festival, The Fringe '98, Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow and clubs around the country), Shetland Islands (Shetland Folk Festival '99) and the United States.

During last year's US tour Myllärit performed at 21 public concerts, including the June 19th concert at McKay Campus School in Fitchburg, during May and June in five states. They also performed for over 8,000 students and teachers at 26 school performances in Vermont and New Hampshire.

This year's North American tour included performances

at Finn Grand Fest 2000 in Toronto.

Tickets for the August 26 concert are available from Raivaaaja (978-343-3822, Alida Herring (978-827-3217, Susan Sanguinetti (978-537-1142), June Rantanen (978-582-4201), Armas Kaukoranta (978-342-7909), Joan Niehaus (978-345-1693), Eleanor Lucander (978-874-5869), Karl Makela (508-829-5181), Jane Guercio (978-345-1673), Maija Mård (978-582-7717) and Sally Tracy (978-386-7089).

The tickets are \$8 in advance and will be \$10 at the door.

Looking for children to folkdance

FITCHBURG, MA - Children are being sought to learn some Finnish folk dances and participate in the AmeriCulture Arts Festival at Fitchburg State College.

Children need to come to two rehearsals at Saima Park, Saturday, Sept. 9, 11 a.m. to noon, and Saturday, Sept. 16, 2-3 p.m.

They will then dance at the festival on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 3 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 30, at 3 p.m.; and Sat., Oct. 7, at 2:45 p.m.

PRESIDENT

from page 7

ond week in August. Finnish sister cities Salo and Kuopio have already been contacted with the hope of getting them involved with the festival.

Primary goals

Since last summer FinnFest USA was governed by an executive committee consisting of Pärssinen, Westerberg, and Nancy E. Riikonen, of Mount Dora (FL).

At the FinnFest USA annual meeting Pärssinen said that the committee had set the following primary goals: 1. to remove the administrative stuff from the Selvälä's home.

"This has been a delicate undertaking," she said adding that a number of records have been moved to the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota.

Number two goal was to establish a corporate address. Number three, to set festivals

for years 2001 and 2002.

"Nine people have tried to fill one man's work. Everybody has done their share," Pärssinen commented.

"We have accomplished these goals, and feel that we have strengthened as an organization," she said.

According to Westerberg there are 380 organizations on the FinnFest USA mailing list. Of these 150 have been members. There are only 63 paid members now.

"We need to get feedback from the membership organizations," he stated.

Also attending the meeting was Pertti Paasio, chairman of Suomi-Seura and the Expatriate Parliament of Finland.

He brought greetings from both organizations and welcomed those present to participate in the next session (November 6-7) of the parliament.



August 26th 2000

Happy Birthday June!

With sounds of Fennos-Scandinavian melodies in the air. June, you have stars in your eyes and natural rhythm on the floor.

Congratulations, Raimo

Photograph taken at Kesäjuhla 2000 at the Finnish Center at Saima Park

Finnish dancer signs with Philadelphia Ballet

Jonas Lundquist, 27, a dancer with the Finnish National Ballet, has signed a contract to perform as a soloist with the Philadelphia Ballet company, beginning this season. He is the fourth Finn who has become a solo ballet dancer in the United States. Others have been: Mikko Nissinen, (San Francisco Ballet), Jukka Aromaa (New York City Ballet), and, during the 1960s, Leo Ahonen (Houston Ballet).

Wanted: Full-time minister to serve 97-year-old Finnish Lutheran Congregation in New York City

Requirements: Ability to speak Finnish and conduct service in the Finnish language and Lutheran tradition. Ability to speak, read, and write English is also helpful. This position requires a minimum three year commitment. Salary is negotiable. Living quarters are provided.

For consideration and complete details
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[church council president]
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Sports Roundup

by Harri Siitonen

Seppälä takes two swim golds

Hanna-Maria Seppälä of Finland won two events in the European Junior Swim championships at Dunkirk, France July 29-30. She first set a Finnish national record in winning the 100-meter freestyle in 56.59 and then came back to set a national record in the 50M freestyle in 26.14. She looks like a good bet to make the Finnish Olympic team.

Mika Häkkinen second in German Grand Prix

Mika Häkkinen and his McLaren took second place in the Formula One Grand Prix at Hockenheim, Germany, on July 30 as Rubens Barrichello (Brazil/Ferrari) won by driving a daring, risky race with smooth tires on a wet, rainy course. David Coulthard (Britain/McLaren) was 3rd, Jenson Button (Britain/Williams) 4th and Mika Salo (Finland/Sauber) 5th. Point leader Michael Schumacher of Germany/Ferrari again abandoned the race in the first lap due to a collision.

Two weeks earlier at the Austrian Grand Prix, Häkkinen took his second race of

the season although his personal victory was held up due to an electronic box missin from his McLaren. It was ruled nine days later that Häkkinen was not at fault and he was awarded his ten points although the McLaren lost its constructor points.

Thus, this motor race has become a horse race with Schumacher still leading for the season with 56 points, with Häkkinen and Coulthard just behind with 54. Barrichello is fourth with 46 and Salo is in a two-way tie for ninth place with 6.

(This writer is now in Finland and heard a Formula One discussion between two Finns at Raisio. One didn't even consider it a sport while another sardonically proclaimed his "political incorrectness" by saying it was his favorite sport as the gas-belching vehicles were heavy air polluters, Formula One was heavily subsidized by tobacco companies, and the drivers get no cardio/aerobic fitness benefits from their sitting down wheelmanship.)

Timo Aaltonen tough in shotput ring

Timo Aaltonen seems in top

Brother, sister take first place in Festival Finlandia youth talent show

CHISHOLM, MN - Nick and Lynda Koivunen of Hibbing took first place at the Festival Finlandia Youth Talent Show held at Ironworld Discovery Center July 22.

Nick, age 17, and Lynda, age 9, performed vocal and instrumental Finnish medleys to collect their first place prize of \$300. Nick and Lynda both play the piano, and Nick plays the accordion and the baritone. Lynda also recently attended Salolampi Finnish language village.

Grandparents, Ken and Esther Koivunen of Zim and Florence Rocchio of Hibbing, have had a great musical influence on Nick and Lynda, who have received superior awards in many of the Minnesota Federation of Music Clubs Festivals.

Parents Pat Rocchio and Karl Koivunen said the children's grandparents strongly

encourage them to explore and preserve their Finnish heritage.

Ashley Kesanen, age 13, of Britt, took second place by singing the Finnish tunes *Wild Rose* and *The Vagabond Waltz*. Ashley collected \$200 for her outstanding performance.

Sara, Julie and Anne Holker, ages 16, 14 and 12, sung *Red River Valley* in English & Finnish and *You Are My Sunshine* to take the third place prize of \$100. The Holker sisters are from Swatara.

Festival Finlandia was presented by UPM-Kymmene/Blandin Paper and sponsored by Minnesota Power, the Minnesota State Lottery, KBJR News 6, Northwest Airlines, and Coca Cola Bottling Company of Virginia.

Ironworld Discovery Center

condition to make the Finnish Olympic team in the shotput as he won the event under slippery and rainy conditions at a meet in Hämeenkyrö on July 22 with a best of 20.20 meters. He, Mika Halvari and Tapa Reinikainen are top candidates for the team since all three have cracked the 20m Olympic "A" qualifying standard at least twice this season.

Arsl Harju, who has had a bad season, is still considered a contender for the team, but finished third at Hämeenkyrö with 19.47 and Ville Tuisanoja was second with 19.69.

Dan O'Brien out of Olympics

Decathlete star Dan O'Brien bowed out of the US Olympic trials at Sacramento, CA in July, due to a plantar fascia tear in his foot. This may effectively end the decathlon career of former Olympic champ, three-time World Champion and former world record holder. O'Brien, 34, had a Finnish-American birth mother.

Hanno Möttölä first NBA Finn

Hanno Möttölä, 23, has made history as the first Finn signed up to play professionally in the National Basketball Association as he agreed to a contract with the Atlanta Hawks. He has a one-year contract for the NBA's minimum scale of \$316,969. He was a Hawks' second round draft choice.

He played last year for the University of Utah, with a top point result of 32 in a game against Texas in 1999. He has been voted Finnish basketball player of the year by the Finnish Sportswriters' Association in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

The biggest problem he had at Utah was that nobody could pronounce his family name: Möttölä. (Can you?) Nobody could believe the umlauts over all three vowels. So it took him two years to have the name spelled right on his uniform shirt. Now that he's with Atlanta, how do you pronounce Möttölä with a Southern accent?

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