



The Maine Finn

Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine

P.O. Box 294 • West Paris, Maine 04289

www.maineфинns.org

Officers

President	Dale Piirainen	207-674-5539	25 Stearns Hill Road, West Paris, ME 04289
Vice President	Martha L. Wilson	207-925-2972	966 Main St., Lovell, ME 04051
Treasurer	Barbara Payne	207-743-5677	12 Hillside Ave., South Paris, ME 04281
Secretary	Karen Bennett	207-674-3748	295 Koskela Rd., Bryant Pond, ME 04219
Membership Secretary	Cynthia Immonen	207-743-2384	43 Mountain View Dr., South Paris, ME 04281

Directors

Tamara Cohen	207-743-5367	24 Village Lane, Oxford, ME 04270
Barbara Honkala.....	207-824-2711	1262 Intervale Road, Bethel, ME 04217
Richard Suomela	207-743-0953	6 Suomela Lane, Norway, ME 04268
Peter Starbird.....	207-743-2246.....	104 Nichol St., South Paris, ME 04281
Natalie Parsons.....	207-743-7742.....	P.O. Box 209, Norway, ME 04268

Issue #120

Oct., Nov., Dec. 2012

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Sept 16: Jimmy Lowell presented a program on the late Gunsmith, Eino Heikkinen, The notice in the paper even prompted a call from an individual who had guns crafted by Eino and was attempting to make contact with Jimmy.

Oct 20: The Public Supper was once again a great success and added generously to our coffers. Thanks to one and all.

Oct 21: A'CORDING to Kantele treated us to some beautiful music, in which the audience participated in the singing. One of the songs was *When It's Lamplighting Time in the Valley*. This has been picked up by the Scandinavian countries, with a reference to candles instead of lamps. For a beautiful version in Finnish, Google *Kodin Kynttilät* and select the beautiful voice of Laila Kinnunen. You will not be disappointed.

Nov 18: Scott Andrews presented a fantastic program on ski manufacturing and the contributions of the Scandinavians. The film, *From Tree to Ski*, showed the process used by Paris Manufacturing Co here in South Paris.

KALENTERI

Dec 16: Tamara Cohen will present a program on Finnish inventors. This should be interesting as we rarely hear of the many products and inventions presented to the world by Finland.

December will also be our final meeting of the season as we will not be holding meetings in January, February or March. Should the weather look iffy in December please tune in to Channel 8, listen to WOXO or call one of the officers or directors listed at the top of this page.

CALENDARS

The popularity of the 2013 calendar required the printing of more. There are still some available. They make an excellent gift which lasts throughout the year and brings back the yesterdays with the depiction of Finnish family farms.

HYVÄÄ JOULUA

JA

ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTA!

IN MEMORIUM

Our sincere condolences go out to the families and friends of the dearly departed members of the Finnish-American community. More extensive information may be found in our genealogy department.

Mirja Koskela Rainey, age 87, of W Paris, passed away on Aug 24th. She was born in Woodstock, the daughter of Edward & Tilda Koskela. She is survived by her daughter Minnie Wilson, sons Wade & Mark, grandchildren, great-grandchildren & great-great grandchildren. She was pre-deceased by her husband, Edgar, brothers Taisto & Waito, sister Helvi Hale, sons Craig & "Arnie" and grandson Michael.

Shirley A. Morin, age 66, a long-time resident of Falls Church, VA died Sept 9th. She was the daughter of Edward and Elvi Morin and graduated from Portland High School and UMaine-Gorham. She served in the Peace Corp and worked for the Transportation Research Board in DC until her retirement. She is survived by her mother, Elvi Morin, and her brother Jeff. Burial was at the Finnish Cemetery in West Paris.

Gloria M. Komulainen, age 83, of Standish passed away on Sept 18th. Formerly of South Paris she met her husband, Hugo, while working as a soda jerk at the Rexall store. They were married for 63 years. She is survived by her husband, sons David and Thomas, daughter Diane and several grandchildren.

Anne T. Piippo, age 101, passed away on October 1st at her home in Hebron. She attended schools in Harrison & Hebron before graduating from Buckfield High School and Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1933. After serving in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps during WWII she made her home in California before retiring back to Hebron. She is survived by her sister Vera and many nieces and nephews. She was pre-deceased by her sisters Helm Gustavson, Regina Moriarty & Alma Quittman and brothers Arthur & Reino.

Vera E. Piippo, 99, of Hebron passed away on Oct 26. She was born in Harrison, the daughter of Daniel & Aino Lehto Piippo, and moved to Hebron where she attended grammar school. She then traveled to Buckfield High School each day, by train. Upon graduation she went on to complete a two year Business School in Boston. In 1943 she joined the Women Marine Corps where she served for 26 years, returning to Hebron to retire and make her home with her sister Anne, who predeceased her by 25 days.

Robert Heino, 83, of Harrison passed away on November 3rd. He was born in Waterford, son of Kalle & Liisa Heino. He was a farmer and logger, as well as working for Wilner Wood Heel & Dielectric. He was president of the Harrison Lutheran Cemetery and past-president of the Finnish-American Heritage Society. Survivors include his wife Mabel, sisters Celia Jacobson & Hilda Peterson and nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brothers William, Victor, Carl & Albert and sisters Louise, Liz, Lina, Lida & Martha.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Shirley Morin: Elvi Morin, Javy Awan, Susan & Pradeep Kaul, Susan Bylander, Michael Kleiber ... \$325.00

In Memory of Gloria Komulainen: Elvi Morin 25.00

In Memory of Robert Heino: Ed & Julie Daye \$25.00

FINNBITS

Over 80% of Finns pay their bills online today according to the Federation of Finnish Financial Services. *Suomen Silta 3-4/12*

The Tanskanens from Polvijävi in Northern Karelia have a collective age of 928 years for 12 brothers and sisters which should qualify them for the Guinness World Record. Erkki Tanskanen, 83, a retired school principal said, "One does not become aware of one's own age so much, but the fact that all 12 of us have stayed alive must be something rather amazing." *Suomen silta 5/12*

Russian tourists visiting Finland have increased sharply during the past years. In 2011 close to 3.3 million Russian tourists visited Finland, up 27% from the previous year. *Suomen silta 5/12*

The Maine Finn is published quarterly in,
March, June, September & December
Editor: Barbara N. Payne #743-5677
12 Hillside Ave S Paris, ME 04281
Printed by: Creative Media #743-2200
290 Main St Norway, ME 04268

FINNFEST

Finnfest 2013 will be held in November this year in Tucson, Arizona. No information on specific dates is yet available.

It is noted that expatriate events in Australia and the United States are on the decline. As the expatriate generation ages they are no longer able to travel to distant events and, as most people do not get interested in their roots until middle age, few young people are involved in these events. *Suomen Silta 3/12* In the United States we find that this situation applies to organizations in general, be it legions, churches, or other organizations.

The situation is not that different from what we experienced locally. As the first generation of Finnish immigrants passed, the second generation dropped the ball, until our organization was formed thirty years ago, in 1982. At the time that FAHSoM was forming I wrote the following:

GROWING UP AS A FINNISH-AMERICA

We preferred their "*pumpuli leipä*" to the dark bread which we carried in our lunch pails. Yet, some of their ways seemed odd to us, like saying "excuse me" when they left the table instead of "*kiitos*" (Thank you). But, like all hyphenated-Americans we felt the need to blend in, and blend we did, becoming Americanized. Time passed, generations as well, and we found ourselves with pieces missing. The traditions and culture of years past, as well as our first language, were nearly lost to us. We searched through the pile of discarded memories, rediscovering and appreciating those treasured building blocks of our earlier years. We held them to us closely, timidly, privately, and individually – each in his own way, until we became overwhelmed. Thus a Society was formed – a society dedicated to preserving the heritage and culture from which we came. *BNP*

FINLAND HOUSE/SUOMI TALO

65 years old

Florida's desirable climate drew Finns to the area during the winter months as early as the 1930's. In 1945, the area Finns started talking about purchasing property where they could hold outdoor celebrations and possibly build a hall.

They decided on Lake Worth. Responsibility for the building project was accepted by local, well-known building contractor, Lauri Hyyti and in January, 1948 work began with both

men and women working on the building site. Women sawed wood into shorter pieces to the amazement of American-born folks, who took pictures of the women at work. Women also helped the carpenters and masons. They carried lumber and cement blocks. One woman even laid bricks for the hall's cook stove.

Members realized at the outset that the hall was too small and voted unanimously to plan a larger hall. A committee was formed to bring the new plans forward. Well known building contractor, Hannes Vuori, became committee chairman and construction manager. The new hall, with its large stage was perfect for live theatrical and other entertainment activities.

Affiliate groups within Finland House provide a variety of cultural and entertainment activities.

Connections with Finland's government are strong as evidenced by the Embassy of Finland's continued desire to conduct Finnish elections at Finland House. Finnish citizens in the area have, for many years, come to Finland House to vote in the elections.

The purpose of the association is to maintain Finnish culture, heritage, and traditions among people of Finnish origin, who are living or visiting in south Florida. Finland House history is based upon friendship, cherishing the mutual relationships among Finns in the area.

FMI: <http://usasuomeksi.com/Suomitalo/index.html>

THE SWEDE SAW

It seemed that every farm home had one. It was a wood frame one man saw with the blade tightened by a rope. While it carried the name Swede it was invented and manufactured by a Finn. For the woodsmen it had the advantage of being easily disassembled to be moved from job to job. In the 1920's the Swede saw had become the most popular saw in the pulp woods of Ontario and continued to be used well into the 50's.

(This, and other interesting information, may be found in a book called Finns in Ontario published by the Multicultural History Society of Ontario, 1981. While I always understood that it was a Finn saw the name of the inventor is still unknown. If you have more information please let us know. BNP)

WICKSTRÖM'S AUTOMOBILES

When I was in Vaasa, Finland, in 2002, I picked up a brochure with an article claiming that the first automobile was invented by a Finn. While the Wickstrm name was familiar to everyone there, in association with motors, no one was familiar with the story of the automobile. I was never able to obtain further information on it, until Jim Hakala, one of our newest members, came forth with it. Thank you Jim! BNP

Johan Michelsson Wickström (1847-1916) was born in Vaasa, Finland. He was a coppersmith and a master smith.

His son John (1870-1959) was born in Kvevlax and died in Vaasa. John became involved in the railroad machine shop in Vaasa. At age 19 he went to Chicago for training. It was at the time that the automobile industry was being born. In 1898, at the age of 28, John started the Chicago Motor Cycle Coach Co. and built the city's first automobile.

In 1901 John Wickström appeared at the Chicago World's Fair with the Caloric II, an automobile he designed. It was an improved model of Chicago's first auto that he built in 1898. The improved auto had 2 cylinders and 10-12 horsepower. In his factory he built 10 automobiles, improving them gradually, especially the combustion engines with several cylinders.

From 1897-1907 Wickstöm was granted 9 patents. His new business, Chicago Caloric Engine Co. on Wabash Ave, also manufactured boat motors. At the time there were no boat motor builders in the Nordic countries so John saw an opportunity and returned to Finland. With his brother Jacob, they established a company which, from 1936 on also produced diesel engines.

John's son Roy (1901-1981) built the first domestic production auto in Finland, the Seoma, in 1933. His first patents included the auto lubrication system and air cooling system. Roy held a patent on a motor carburetor and preheater. He also exported motor armatures, and various pumps, along with a motor magneto in 1946 developed in collaboration with AB Magnettändning in Stockholm. He is considered Finland's pioneer with 13 patents from 1930-74.

Roy's son, LeRoy, (1928-) continued in the business. After graduation in Helsinki he went to Chicago and became an engineer at Illinois Institute of Technology in 1960. He designed automobiles in Detroit in the 1980's and worked on the Saturn auto project in Troy, Michigan from 1986 to 1989 and as a system consultant for Honeywell Co .

In Finland the name Wickström is associated with the boat motor built by Bröderna Wickström in Vasklot, Vaasa. After 3 generations Wickstöm motors are still in use today, especially along the coastal areas of Finland & Norway.

It should be noted that Henry Ford also appeared at the Chicago World's Fair in 1901, the same year as John Wickström.

Ford Motor Company was established in 1903. When they started production of the Model T, in 1908, the Nyberg brothers, emigrants to Arizona introduced the Ford to Finland, importing the first Ford and building up a sales system. Ford Oy Ab of Finland was established in 1926, just 23 years after Ford Motor Company was established. *The articles on which this story was based are available in the museum.*

OLYMPIC STADIUM

In July Helsinki Olympic Stadium hosted the European Athletics Championship.

Sixty years after the Finnish capital hosted the Olympics, almost every stadium built is still being used for the purpose it was intended, making it an exception to the rule.

8/12/12 LSJ

“MOLOTOV COCKTAIL”

Molotov Cocktails, so common with street fighters were first used during the Spanish Civil War, but the Finns gave it the name and mass-produced them.

During the Winter War, the Russians claimed that the Finns were starving and that they were sending bread. In fact they were cluster bombing Finland with what the Finns called “Molotov's bread baskets”.

The Finns weren't starving, though they were quite short on anti-tank guns, so the “Molotov cocktail” was the Finns response ... a drink to go with the food.

The Finnish alcohol monopoly Alko designed the incendiary weapon to use against the Soviet tanks. They were eventually mas-produced by the Alko Corporation at its Rajamäki distillery.

Now when you hear the name “Molotov Cocktail” (a name which Molotov is said to have hated) you will know where the name came to be.

Info from FACA Uutiset, extracted from Wikipedia

WAR CHILDREN

In 1944 nearly 30,000 children were sent from Finland to Sweden during the course of one year. During the entire Second World War at least 70,000 children spent time in Sweden. About 4,000 children were sent to Denmark and an even smaller number to Norway. They were hastily returned from Norway to Finland after Germany attacked Norway in 1940.

Pertti Kaven, who has researched the transfers, calculated that at least 10,000 children never returned to Finland.

The idea of relocating the children originated with Hannah Rydh, a Swedish woman who was particularly concerned about the fate of the children in war torn Finland.

At first the Finns rejected the idea from concern that the children might stay in Sweden. As it turned out, many did, forgetting their Finnish roots and biological parents, especially those that were under the age of three.

The evacuations were a sore spot in the minds of many Finns for a long time. More recently much has been written and chronicled on film about the difficult sacrifices made by loving parents during the war. *Helsingin Sanomat 10/9/12*

FINNISH TALENT

Gardner (MA) Museum recently got a new Steinway for their new hall. It was selected by renowned pianist, **Paavali Jumppanen** during a scouting trip to Hamburg. Jumppanen, a regular performer at Gardner Hall, is often consulted on musical matters. He traveled to Hamburg to select the piano. Because it was handcrafted it took 12 to 13 months to construct. The cost, \$184,000, was picked up by Brit d'Arbeloff. This makes the Gardner one of the city's leading venues for classical music. *Boston Globe 8/22/12*

Singer/Songwriter **Afie Jurvanen**, from Canada, performed recently at Brighten (MA) Music Hall. The performance was riveting for all the things it lacked. No drums, thumping bass, or pulsating keyboards. Just Jurvanen on electric guitar finding the sweet spot between his voice and that of the Bahama singers. Jurvanen said, "I like a lot of country music and old music rooted in harmony and simplicity. *Boston Globe 9/16/12*

Boston Ballet artistic director **Mikko Nissinen** took his company to tour in Helsinki in September. 50 year old Nissinen was born in

Helsinki and danced with the Finnish National Ballet along with his boyhood friend, **Jorma Elo**, the resident choreographer for the Boston Ballet.

At the age of 16 the friends decided to go to the biggest competition in Europe, the Prix de Lausanne. It was the first time they started enforcing the age limit and you were supposed to be non-professionals, but everyone was a young professional. Being disqualified they chose to travel to New York and go to the School of American Ballet (SAB) to take classes in the company of such people as Baryshnikov and Nureyev. Mikko has now been a citizen for five years but says, "I am definitely Finnish; it's in my DNA". *Boston Globe 9/30/12*

Varttina of Finland, a lively folk outfit was selected to perform "The Lord of the Rings" in London's West End. The band features fiddles, accordions, drums, and the traditional Finnish kantele. *News article undated/unidentified*

And ... lest one think Finnish artists are all classical and ballet, along comes **Lordi**, which debuted as Ozzfest. The 30-something founder and singer, Tomi Putaansuu, of the Finnish metal quintet said his first musical love was Kiss. He feels however that modern metal is too heavy. He feels melody is the most important thing and never understood vocals without melody. "If it's just growling and screaming, I don't get it." *Boston Globe*
The Talent articles were all submitted by Natalie Parsons

ACTRESS FROM MIKKELI

Jenny Rostain, 29, is one of the stars in a recent Lady Gaga music video, "Marry the Night". This saucy New York based actor is a tall, beautiful redhead that sticks out even in the crowds of Manhattan.

Jenny Hänninen came to New York, from Finland, four years ago. She married and took her husband's name. In New York she started studying at the Stella Adler Studio of Actin and gained her degree in two years. She had applied once to the Theatre Academy in Helsinki but was not accepted. She also worked as a model in Finland and is now represented by the Fondi Model Agency.

The only thing Jenny found problematic in her acting is her Finnish accent, which is hard to lose. She is still training in speech. "The American movie circles have, however slowly started to use international stars whose foreign accents only make them more interesting", she said. *Suomen Silta 3/12*

grandparents, Isaac & Hilda Koskela came from Finland.

The doll sitting atop the weaving was donated by Laila Doughty. The age is unknown but it originally belonged to her oldest sister, Lempi.

Esther Polvinen donated a beautiful old family Bible which once belonged to her grandfather, Kalle Polvinen.

Tooty Wilson has handcrafted some beautiful Finnish hanging ornaments that she has donated for sale in the gift shop. They would make beautiful gifts.

Tamara Cohen has donated a new book to the library titled *Return to the Land of My Fathers*. It was written by Kenneth Lundstrom, a molecular biologist. He was born in Helsinki, Finland but now resides in Lausanne, Switzerland. It is an interesting read for anyone, but especially touching for those with roots in Karelia.

Our Sunshine Lady, Betty Hertell will also continue her duties so please forward information to her at #743-6658.

Our membership secretary, Cynthia Immonen, is accepting dues for 2013. They are requested by April as we have returned to a calendar year.

Plans have yet to be finalized for the Finnish language classes to resume but it will likely be sometime in the spring. We'll keep you posted.

Enjoy the winter and we'll see you all again in the spring!

NEW MEMBERS

New members, joining in 2012 include: Alexandrea Perry-Weiz, Kathryn Jillson, Glen Aho, Sara Reiman, Bruce Downing, Jim Hakala, Omar Pulkkinen, Eric & Brenda Grondahl, Ronald Olson, Todd Heino, and Helene Domi. Welcome one and all!

**MAINE FINN
FINNISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE
SOCIETY OF MAINE
P.O. Box 294
8 Maple Street
West Paris, ME 04289**

Membership and Subscription Coupon

Annual Dues

Membership is open to anyone interested in the work to which this organization is dedicated. Dues are \$10.00 per calendar year and include the newsletter.

_____ Newsletter subscription only, \$6.00 per year.

Name: _____

Street: _____

Town, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Finnish Connection: _____

Make checks payable to: FAHSoM c/o Cynthia Immonen
43 Mountainview Drive ... S Paris, ME 04281

Meetings are held at the Finnish-American Heritage Center on the 3rd Sunday of April through June and September through December. (Closed January, February, March) Open House is held every Sunday in July & August from 2 to 4, except for the 3rd Sunday of August when we hold our Summer Social. To check on specific events see the calendar on page one or go to: www.maineffins.org