Meetings & Activities

▶ Sept 18: Tamara Cohen presented an interesting program & video on the 2010 North American Wife Carrying Championship, held at Sunday River.

▶ Oct 15: Our Public Supper was once again a fantastic success with over 90 people enjoying the buffet. Tooty Wilson and Loraine Piirainen organize these events, decorate tables, and line up a team of capable workers. We thank everyone for their contributions, including the cooks for the terrific food, which brings out the crowds.

▶ Oct 16: Marja-Leena Bailey, Aire-Maija Schwann, Curt Madison, and Nikki Abbott presented a program on the Finnish language course scheduled to start at the U-Maine College Center in South Paris in March. Bailey gave us a sampling of what classes would be like, which was interesting, informative and entertaining. Classes are tentatively scheduled for Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:30 and Saturdays at 2pm. Cost depends on the number of students.

▶ Nov 20: Tooty Wilson presented a program on some unusual and humorous Finnish Pursuits.

Finnish Language Course

For more information on the language course please e-mail Bailey at: baileym@middlesex.mass.edu or call her at #978-656-3370 or contact Abbott at the U-Maine College Center, #207-743-6308.

Kalenteri

Dec 18: Dale Piirainen will present the Joulu program. Christmas gifts for the Society are also welcome, from paper goods to whatever, although we have a sufficient amount of coffee on hand. This will be our final meeting for the season as we will be closed for the months of Jan, Feb, & March.

2012 Calendars & More

The Society Calendars for 2012 are still available in the tori. The cost per calendar is $10. For mailing please include another $5.00 for postage. These make great gifts, but the supply is limited so order early!

Karen has also stocked the tori well with a variety of new items, which would make great and unusual gifts for the holidays.
If you change your email address, please send the new address to Melanie (our website administrator) at admin@mainefinns.org. Anyone who has yet to provide us with an email address is urged to do so. You will then be able to access our quarterly newsletter on the website and we will be able to directly advise you of upcoming events of interest to the membership.

If you know of a member that is ill or grieving
Notify our Sunshine Lady
Betty Hertell ...743-6658
So they can be remembered with a card.

In Memoriam
Our 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.

► Brenda L. Budrock, of South Paris, daughter of the late Taisto Raasumaa, passed away on Sept 5th at the age of 50. Her mother, two sisters, nieces and nephews survive her.

► Bruno Leino, age 89, passed away on Oct 5th. He was the son of the late John & Hilda Leino and a lifelong resident of Harrison. He was one of five brothers, each of who served in the U.S. military. Survivors include his wife, children, grandchildren, sisters and brothers.

► Tyyne Waisanen Fowler, age 85, passed away on November 2nd. She was born in Greenwood on Feb 17, 1926, the daughter of Matti and Aino (Mustonen) Waisanen. Prior to her illness Tyyne was an active member of the Society, having served as a director. She is survived by brothers Harold & Eddie. Her husband, brothers Toivo, Henry, Eino & Michael, and sister Martha predeceased her.

30th Anniversary
It was a cold, blustery winters day on January 17, 1982 when 80 people gathered at the old Paris Fire Station. This was in response to an announcement that appeared in the paper to see if there was any interest in organizing a Finnish-American Group. Ray & Eva Heikkinen Hilden, Taisto & Eleanor Koskela, and Ena & Katherine Heikkinen organized this meeting. They were the founders of what is known as the Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine. Those who joined at the 1st & 2nd meeting became Charter Members.

It wasn’t long before this enthusiastic group outgrew the fire station and moved on to the Congregational church in South Paris. Hope blossomed in someday having a building of our own. Little did we know the luck that would come our way when the Ring-McKeen American Legion Post offered us their building. The deed was signed on April 26, 1991 for what is now the Finnish-American Heritage Center in West Paris.

Our first newsletter, called *The Maine Finn*, was published in April 1983. This newsletter continues to be published quarterly, with this being our 116th issue!

Our new home allowed space for a library and a gift shop (*tori*), as well as a meeting room. The second floor had been gutted. Our own members undertook the task of renovating it. They did a fantastic job of turning this space into a museum, which was dedicated on Nov 14, 1997.

The Center has been our home base, with many programs, dances, meetings, public suppers, and more taking place there. But not all activities take place within the confines of the Center’s four walls. The Society hosted a Finnish Friendship Festival in 1988, was an active participant in Finnfest ’98, held at U-Maine Gorham, built prize winning floats for area parades, and presented cultural programs for schools, nursing homes, and historical societies.

In an effort to keep current and move forward, we are now on line ([www.mainefinns.org](http://www.mainefinns.org)). This allows us greater exposure. One can even receive their newsletters on line.

Pride in our heritage continues as 3rd, 4th, and 5th generations are visiting Finland and exploring their roots.
Charter Members of FAHSoM - 1982

- Veikko & Paula Allen & family
- Esther Field Dingley
- Alma Mikkonen Dixon
- Richard & LaJila Piirainen Doughty
- Mary Jacobson Emery
- Ernest & Linda Cummings Field
- Jeanie Morse Figurroa & family
- Martha Nurmi Flanigan
- Sylvia Peiju Foster
- Sylvia Starbird French
- Aili Korhonen Goodwin
- Howard & Ida Korhonen Gurney
- Hannah Hakala
- Walfred & Elma Malinen Hamari
- Amos Heikkinen
- Eino & Eva Cummings Heikkinen
- Ena & Katherine Heikkinen
- Hugo A Heikkinen
- Laura J Heikkinen
- Matti & Sylvia Kuvaja Heikkinen
- Raymond & Velma Heikkinen
- Vieno Heikkinen
- Waino & Eleanor Kostinen Heikkinen
- Dick Helin
- Atte & Betty Hertell
- Raymond & Eva Heikkinen Hilden
- Eta Linti Immonen
- Jacob & Barbara Immonen
- Miriam Piirainen Inman
- Sam & Helen Heikkinen Jaakkola
- Helmi Korhonen Kanealy
- Arthur & Elaine Koskela Kesaris
- Ellis & Jennie Kilponen
- William & Hilja Pulkkinen Komulainen
- Robert C. Korhonen
- Linda Koskela & family
- Taisto & Eleanor Koskela
- Andrew & Ruth Johnson Lacko
- William Laivo
- L.E. (Duke) & Dian Lazette, Jr
- Alli Kankalo Raatikainen Lee
- Ina Maki
- Janet Martikainen Libby & family
- Ahti & Mary Martikainen
- Viljo & Helmi Masalin
- Earl & Nancy Koskela Mason & family
- Hilda Pihlija Matthews
- Frances & Mildred Maki McCofferty
- Liz McCofferty

- Ruth Waltanen Mckeen
- Saimi McKeen
- Ina Kylonen Millot
- Arthur & Hilja Heikkinen Morse
- Helen Ojalainen Nelson
- “Mannie” & Barbara Nurmi Payne
- William & Edie Raasumaa Pechnik
- Eva Mikkonen Penley
- Annie Pietila
- John J. Pietila, Jr
- Carl & Lois Piirainen
- Veikko & Fannie Polvinen
- Walter & Hilja Polvinen
- George Pulkkinen
- Peter & Mildred Hammond Pulkkinen
- Thomas Pulkkinen
- Ivory & Ruth McKeen Purinton
- Onni & Carolyne Raasumaa
- Marjorie Neal Raatikainen
- Helvi Piirainen Smith
- Aino Kylonen Starbird
- Olga Kylonen Starbird
- Susan Starbird
- Lester & Katrina Korhonen Stevens
- Waino & Laila Alanko Suomela
- Nestor & Katri Tamminen
- Oscar & Betty Tikander
- Enni Kylonen Timberlake
- Charles & Pat Tamminen Verrill
- David & Ruth Waisanen
- Archie & Hazel Waltanen
- Diane M. Waltanen
- Martha Laivo Wilson
- Armas & Aili Peiju Wuori
- Harlan & Jean Raasumaa Wyman

Irish Immigrant’s Lament

Sad was the day we said farewell,
Dear native land, to thee;
And wandered off to find a home,
Beyond the stormy sea.

Hard then our fate; fast flowed the tears,
We tried to hide in vain,
At thought of those we left behind,
And might ne’er see again.

(Immigrants from every nation shared these sentiments. The vast majority left their homes, never to return again, but the heart fondly remembered that beloved homeland, which was nurtured into the hearts and minds of their descendants.)
Swedish Finns & Finnish Swedes

People are often confused by such terms as Swedish Finns or Finnish Swedes. Writer, Arline Sundquist Empie was surprised to learn that her ancestry was Finnish since her immigrant grandparents spoke Swedish.

Swedish Finnish history goes way back. There were the Viking expeditions during the 11th & 12th centuries. Swedish trading posts were established along Finland’s coastline, and as far away as Russia. Swedes settled in Finland during the crusades and colonized the western coast in the late 1200’s to early 1300’s. After several raids into Finland, a peace treaty was established in 1323, making Finland a part of Sweden.

From 1617 to 1721, the Swedish Kingdom was a great power in Europe. They even reached into the new world, setting up the colony of New Sweden in the Delaware Valley, which brought the first Finns to settle here.

As Finland was ruled by Sweden, it was the Swedish legal system that took root in Finland. During this time the Finnish language and culture were mostly among the peasantry as the Swedish language and culture were at their peak. Swedish was the language of the jurists, administration, and education. Many socially ambitious Finns therefore took Swedish names and raised their children with the Swedish language. This created an elite class with little knowledge of Finnish ways. Few publications, other than religious, appeared in Finnish. It was the reformation, which set in motion a rise in Finnish language and culture.

In 1800, during the Napoleonic wars, Sweden joined an armed neutrality pact with Denmark and Russia. But, as they failed to come to terms with France, Napoleon prompted Russia to invade the Swedish territory. Sweden lost the war and signed a treaty in 1809, ceding a third of their territory to Russia. The territory included Finland.

Finland, as a semi-autonomous Grand Duchy of Russia, was able to maintain the Lutheran faith as well as basic constitutional laws and rights already in place. Czar Alexander I also supported the desire of Finns to advance their own language and culture, in order to sever their emotional ties to Sweden.

Johan Spellman believed that the Finnish language was the key to national identity and worked to make Finnish the official language, along with Swedish. Czar Alexander II declared Finnish equal to Swedish as an official language. With this the Swedish speaking upper class began promoting Finnish culture and language as a means to nation building. Names were now reversed from Swedish to Finnish. Finnish literature, music and art were also coming into their own by people such as Lönnrot, Kivi, Sibelius. Topelius, and Runeberg

Swedish speaking Finns, or Swede Finns, are now a linguistic minority in Finland. In 1880, 14.03% of the population in Finland spoke Swedish. By 1910 that had dropped down to 11.6% and currently stands at 6%, but Swedish continues to be the 2nd official language of Finland. It is spoken mostly in the western and southern portions of Finland. The Aland Islands, while a part of Finland, are totally Swedish speaking.

Donations

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go out to the following for their donations of time, talent and materials for the benefit of the Society:

- Richard Suomela put a preservative to the ramp & railing this summer. This is sure to preserve the wood for many years to come.
- Janet Libby donated a potpourri of items including candlesticks, books, pictures, and her fathers survey maps of the Society property.
- Hazel Wheeler donated several scrapbooks that she has assembled concerning members & events of the Society.
- Ed Daye donated time, talent and materials for a new shelf to hold our television. This is high enough on the wall to be seen from the back row.
- Tamara Cohen donated a color printer for the library. The cost of ink cartridges for the old printer became astronomical. The replacement should prove to be much more efficient.
- Stuart Warner & Virginia Labbe donated several books and print materials.
- Richard Impola donated the book *Shavings*, by Juhani Aho. This book of short stories, translated into English, may be found in our library.

*A’ Cording to Kantele will be playing at St Matthews Church in Lisbon Falls on December 10th at 6pm.*
Grampa and his clock
By Larin Kyösti (translated)
Grampa’s clock it runs and cuckoos,
Old granpa gets along just fine…
Tick tock tick tock along just fine
Grandpa has a pipe and tobacco pouch
And a kitty that sleeps in the corner
No one is denying granpa food,
Ryebread and salt and cooked food he’s give given
Tick tock, tick tock, cooked food he’s given
But young are young, and they still grudge him
Find the old one’s steps are in the way
Dust is settling down at twilight,
The sun is low and looks in thru the window
Tick tock tick tock  lobs in through the window
In his creephole he pays no mind
But ties up the holes in the fishnet
The clock leisurely measures the time
The cogwheels they yank and they thump
Tick tock tick tock they yank and they thump
Granpa he winds it, and fixes, and coughs
And cares for it as his own soul’s peace.

Grampa is old as a fence without a yard
The clock is oldser, well known by his father
Tick tock tick tock well known by his father
He has a green flowered jacket
And a brown flowered shirt
Darkened the shot arrows in the dawning
Darkened the cheek of the clock made of porcelain
Tick tock tick tock the clock made of porcelain
Truly time touched even granpa
As he whittled away at a white casket
They would like to rob him of his silver box
Granpa they’d like to count among the deceased
Tick tock tick tock among the deceased.
The clock they’d like to hide in an attic corner
The way it saves time without snuffing it out.

The maid and the hired man laugh at his story
In the common room at twilight, but never mind them
Tick tock tick tock but never mind them
Granpa well knows, and so does the kitty,
That a guardian spirit lives in the clock
Granpa has often heard it at night
How it creaks and keeps busy inside the clock
Tick tock tick tock inside the clock
Measures and determines the pendulum’s swing,
And a little hammer hangs from its belt.
Quietly he lifts a slipped foot,
Out of spider’s web it builds a workshop
Tick tock tick tock builds a workshop
And drives in his carriage between the floor boards
When the rooster begins to crow.
The days they wane away, and push each other
The winters sprinkled snows in the hair
Tick tock tick tock snows in the hair
Granpa sees dreams about his clock
Even his heart beats to the tempo.

This poem was submitted by Cynthia Immonen.
The original Finnish version ‘Vaari ja vaarin kello’ by Larin Kyösti ran in the last newsletter. This is the English translation attributed to Helvi Jaakkola

Timo Selanne
Timo Selanne, at 41, is still one of the NHL’s best scorers, ranking 8th last season. It was the third highest point total ever produced by a player over 40.

Following arthroscopic surgery to clean out his left knee at the end of June, he was back skating again by August. He has now signed up for one more one year contract with the Anaheim Ducks, reportedly for $4 million.

Selanne had a homecomings experience on October 7th when the Ducks opened their season against the Buffalo Sabres in Helsinki, Finland, allowing Selanne an opportunity to play a regular-season game in his homeland.

This & That
You may have noticed the new white gas tank that was recently installed to replace the old cylinders. With a gauge on the tanks we now know exactly how much gas we have. Removing the guesswork brings a sigh of relief to those who work on the public suppers.

Following our December meeting the Center will be closed to limited use for the winter. Richard Suomela will once again see that it is snug and secure. We are also fortunate to have Mark & Deb Herrick next door who not only keep an eye on our trouble light (which goes on if the temperature drops below 45 degrees) but they keep a path cleared from their driveway to our back door. Mark also did the mowing for us this summer, while Dale Pirrainen did the trimming, keeping our grounds looking spectacular.

Articles for the newsletter are welcome at any time. Variety adds interest!
International Best Seller

Sofi Oksanen, a novelist, is the daughter of an Estonian mother and a Finnish father. She makes her home in Helsinki.

Her novel, Purge, written in 2008, won the prestigious Finlandia and Runeberg awards as well as the prestigious Nordic Council Literature Prize. It was translated into English in 2010 and has become an international best seller, having been published in twenty-nine countries.

Purge is a story about the fight for survival in Estonia during the Soviet occupation. It follows the lives of two women, touched by the trauma, who must make miserable choices as they face unspeakable treatment, debasement, violence and betrayal.

This novel has been described as both ‘heartbreaking and optimistic’ as the people draw on their inner resources to survive. It is not for the faint of heart as it is both graphic and disturbing, opening the window on the abuses suffered by many during the occupation and the lingering effects even after Estonia’s independence in 1991.

This book is sure to appear in our own library by spring.

100th Anniversary

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Paris will be celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2012. Founded and built by Finnish immigrants it was originally located on King Hill. It was moved onto the Buckfield Road, in 1950. In its early history there were various circuit pastors and services were irregular. The first regular pastor to hold monthly services was Pastor Ronka. The first full time pastor was George Autio, who served a three-point parish. Along with South Paris he had a church in Harrison and a ‘home church’ in Hebron where services were held in private homes.

For the first 52 years, all pastors were Finnish and did services in Finnish. Pastors who served during that time were Ronka, Wuornos, Joensuu, Wilkman, Autio, Kansanen, Heiman, Ylonen & Kyllonen. Along the way, the pastors became bi-lingual and conducted services in both Finnish and English. In 1965 the first non-Finn pastor arrived and Finnish services were dropped, except for an occasional special service.

The immigrants started their own church, not because of different beliefs but, because of a language barrier, which has been overcome.

To hear reference to the ‘Finnish Church’ brings a smile, as ‘Finnish’ is not a religion, although some may treat it that way! Happy Anniversary Trinity!