

The MAINE FINN

April, May, June 2023

Issue #161



Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine

Special points of interest:

- Gearing Up for Biggest Summer Fundraiser Yet
- News of Finnish Interest
- Big Happenings in the Hills

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HARMONIOUS MELODIES ECHO THROUGH THE NIGHT



From left to right: Leeni Wegelius, Maija Pokela, Anna Wegelius, and Jutta Rahmel.

Finnish-American locals were in for a special treat on Saturday, June 3rd, as they had the rare opportunity to enjoy a captivating evening concert by Kardemimmit in the picturesque foothills of West Paris, Maine.

Kardemimmit is a Finnish music group known for their traditional Finnish folk music. The group was formed in 1999 and consists of four members: Maija Pokela, Jutta Rahmel, Anna Wegelius, and Leeni Wegelius. They are all skilled players of the kantele, which is a traditional Finnish string instrument.

Kardemimmit's music is characterized by beautiful vocal harmonies and intricate kantele arrangements. They draw inspiration from Finnish folklore and traditions, infusing their music with a sense of nostalgia and cultural heritage. Their repertoire includes both original compositions and traditional Finnish folk songs, which they often arrange in their own unique style.



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Karen Bennett

President's Message

Hei members and friends,

Summer is fast approaching and our days will become more busy as we enjoy time with our families and friends, but don't forget to include your finish family here at FAHSOM.

We will host our annual indoor yard sale on Friday, July 7th and Saturday, July 8th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The yard sale will also be open during our summer open houses on Sundays from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. donations are still needed, so think of us when you are cleaning out your attics and garages. Feel free to contact me to arrange a drop off for I can also come pick up your items that are boxed and bagged and ready to go. 207-890-3773. Kiitos!

We have some great items in our gift shop made from beautiful Marimekko fabric. Come in and browse for some unique gift ideas. It's never too early to think of Christmas!

Thank you to all who continue to support or society with your time, financial assistance and your presence at our meetings. We can't continue to thrive and grow without you! Bring a friend or family member to a meeting to share your Finnish heritage.

Kittos!

Karen Bennett,
President, FAHSOM

MARIMEKKO

Marimekko, a renowned Finnish design company founded in 1951, has achieved global acclaim for its distinctive and lively prints. The brand is celebrated for its bold and vibrant patterns, which encompass a wide range of products, such as clothing, accessories, and home furnishings. Marimekko's designs often showcase large-scale, nature-inspired motifs and geometric shapes, known for their simplicity and timeless appeal.

Marimekko stands out as a pioneer in the textile and fashion industry, thanks to its unique design approach. The brand's commitment to sustainability, along with its daring designs, continues to captivate and inspire people worldwide. Marimekko has become an adored symbol of Finnish design excellence.



Carol LaBossiere & Loraine Piirainen
model beautiful aprons made with Marimekko
fabric created for the FAHSOM by Jo-Ann
Korhonen

NEWS OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Bennett Inman was chosen to play cello in the Maine Music Educators Association District 2 Elementary Festival on April 29th 2023. Bennett is the son of Walter and Stephanie Inman and grandson of Tim and Karen Bennett. Bennett is also an avid baseball player. He holds the position behind the plate as catcher for Northern Storm 10U travel team and also plays on the Western Maine Rebels.

Bennett's brother Carter Inman also holds the position of catcher on the Telstar Middle School Rebels team and is also a musician playing trombone. Well done Inman brothers!



Bennett Inman



Carter Inman



Bennett Inman

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

June 18 - We are looking at trying something a bit different for our June Meeting. Juhannus is the largest traditional summer celebration in Finland; the time to celebrate the longest and brightest day of the year and the real beginning of the summer season. To celebrate, come join us for a **Juhannus Potluck Picnic!** Several folks will be bringing Finnish summer picnic dishes, but everyone is encouraged to bring something to share. There will be door prizes and outdoor activities (weather permitting).

July 7 & 8 - In the days following the June meeting, President Karen Bennett will be very busy getting ready for our **BIG INDOOR YARD SALE!** For the past two years this event has been, by far, our most successful fundraising activity. Contact Karen if you have anything to donate in support of the FinnAm (no clothing).

We will be holding **Open House** every Sunday during July and August from 2 to 4 PM. Stop by for coffee, a snack, and a chat!



creativity, and ability to capture the essence of Finnish folk traditions.

Kardemimmit's performances are known for their captivating energy and

intimate connection with the audience. They have toured extensively, showcasing their music

at various festivals and concerts around the world. Through their performances and recordings, Kardemimmit continues to promote and preserve the rich heritage of Finnish folk music.

Tervetuloa!

Welcome back FAHSoM members!

Debra Hertell - Bethel, Maine
Kirsten Burnett - Gorham, Maine

Continued from page 1

MARIN INSPIRES GRADUATES

Prime Minister of Finland, Sanna Marin spoke at NY University's 190th Commencement at New York's Yankee Stadium, May 17, 2023 and delivered remarks on behalf of the honorary degree recipients.

"Geopolitical changes going on in the world are questioning the values we believe in, Climate change and biodiversity loss are threatening our very existence. Digitalization and the development of AI are about to bring revolutionary changes to our societies.

These are challenges that need to be solved. And there is no one else to do that, other than you."

-SANNA MARIN



100 YEARS OF FINNAIR

Finnair, the sixth oldest continuously operating airline in the world, turns 100 years old this year.

On 12 September 1923 the charter establishing the company was signed in Helsinki. The first flight was on 20 March 1924, from Helsinki to Tallinn, Estonia, on a Junkers F.13 aircraft equipped with floats. In 2020, Finnair carried 3.5 million passengers aboard 83 aircraft and it has been consistently rated as one of the safest airlines in the world.

SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The Oxford Hills Scholarship Foundation has received a generous contribution from the late Veikko Piirainen's will. In accordance with his wishes, a scholarship has been established in his honor. The scholarship, known as the Veikko Piirainen Memorial Scholarship, will be granted to a graduating senior of Finnish descent from Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School who plans to pursue a post-secondary education.

The recipient for the year 2023 will be unveiled during Class Night on June 7th and will be featured in our next newsletter.

PAST ACTIVITIES

April 16 - Our Annual Membership Meeting featured a potluck meal and the election of officers for the upcoming year. Despite there only being 25 persons in attendance, there was a wonderful selection of dishes and, as always, everything was delicious. Karen Bennett, Martha Wilson, Stephanie Inman and Melinda Herrick were elected to serve another year as President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Tim Korhonen and Mikko Liimatta were elected to two-year terms as Directors. Natalie Piirainen Andrews and Terri Cross were elected as Auditors. There was a very productive discussion culminating in some interesting ideas...bringing internet service in the FinnAm building to enable a wider-ranging field of activities; creating videos of our museum and programs; inviting high school seniors to consider satisfying their community service graduation requirements by completing projects with the FinnAm are several examples.

May 21 - Twenty-five folks attended our May meeting and were entertained and enlightened by Dale Piirainen's program on Finnish mythological creatures and traditional myths.

IN MEMORIAM

Alpo M. Kahkonen passed away on Tuesday April 4, 2023, at home in South Paris with his loving family by his side. He was born Feb. 22, 1938, in Lewiston, the youngest of six children born to Matti H. and Ida (Hytonen) Kahkonen. After attending Paris schools, he enlisted in the US Army in April 1959. Returning home, he worked for many years as a truck driver, retiring from St. Johnsbury in 1993. He married Carmen Lea MacAllister on 15 April 1961 and together they raised three sons Kevin A., Gregory K., and Duane J. In addition to his loving parents, he was predeceased by three infant siblings (Reino Emil, Oiva Matias, and Aino) and his brother Eino Arvid. He is survived by his wife Carmen, their sons, his brother Edwin M., and his granddaughters Kenzie and Kori Kahkonen.



Finnish Finds

Indoor Yard Sale Fundraiser

Join us at this year's incredible Indoor Yard Sale, benefiting the Finnish American Heritage Society of Maine! Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to find hidden treasures while supporting a worthy cause.

Friday, July 7th & Saturday, July 8th

8:00 AM. to 3:00 PM

8 Maple St, West Paris, ME

Discover a wide selection of items for every taste and need:

Beautifully crafted pieces for your home.

Electronics: Gadgets and devices at unbeatable prices.

Delightful toys and games to entertain the young at heart.

A vast collection of books, CDs & DVDs

This Indoor Yard Sale offers more than just amazing deals:

All proceeds will directly benefit the FAHSOM, supporting cultural exchange programs, educational initiatives, and community events in Western Maine.

Special offers and discounts available on select items throughout the day.

Indoor setting ensures a comfortable and rain-proof shopping experience.

For more information or early bird entry, please contact Karen Bennett at:

207-890-3773

Mark your calendars and spread the word! Help us make a difference while finding unique treasures at our Indoor Yard Sale. Together, let's support our FAHSOM. See you there!

FINLAND'S LAKES AND FORESTS

Home to Enigmatic Creatures

The mystical allure of Finland's expansive lakes and dense forests has given rise to a rich tapestry of mythological creatures. From benevolent beings to fearsome monsters, these entities inhabit the realms of Finnish folklore, captivating the imaginations of those who encounter their tales. Let's delve into some of the most remarkable creatures lurking within the depths of Finland's waters and the shadows of its woodlands.



One such creature is Hiisi, an ancient spirit associated with wooded hills and groves. Initially revered for creating horses, Hiisi later became a monstrous figure in Finnish mythology, attacking travelers and pilfering from homes. Haltija, the Finnish equivalent of elves or gnomes, are diverse in nature. Tonttu, the house elves, are famous as the inspiration behind Santa's helpers, while water haltija emerge from the sea with stone hats and boots, aiding in tasks like tree felling and water purification.

Peikko, resembling a giant, possesses the ability to change size, become invisible, and even tamper with children's teeth. Finnish mythology also includes Iku-Turso, a formidable creature akin to the Kraken, and Menninkäinen, resembling Tolkien's Hobbits, with a fondness for riddles and shiny treasures. Näkki, the deceptive water spirits, lurk in murky depths, luring and drowning unsuspecting children.

Bears, regarded as divine beings, hold immense significance in Finnish folklore. The Otso, or Kings of the Forest, were once worshiped as gods, and their remains were ceremoniously placed in sacred clearings. Tapio, the forest god, and his wife Mielikki, the goddess, are invoked for bountiful game and livestock protection. Lastly, the haunting figure of Vedenemo, the "Mother of Waters," lures humans with her enchanting songs, bringing ill omens to those who encounter her.

These mythical creatures add depth and mystery to Finland's natural landscape, weaving a tapestry of folklore that continues to captivate and intrigue both locals and visitors alike.



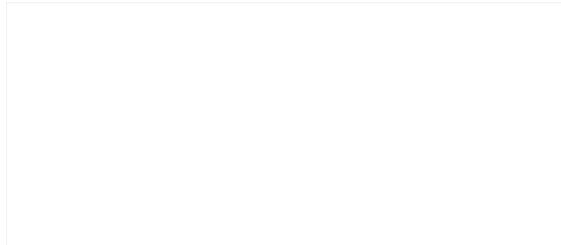
Finnish-American Heritage Society of Maine

The MAINE FINN

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The Finnish American Heritage Society was formed in 1982 as a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Finnish heritage, celebrating Finnish culture and educating the community about Finnish customs.



DUES & NEWS

MEMBERSHIP - \$12 per calendar year per person (includes quarterly newsletter)

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FINNISH - AMERICAN HERITAGE SOCIETY OF MAINE,
PO BOX 294, WEST PARIS ME 04289

Juhannus
POTLUCK PICNIC!

Sunday, June 18
2 PM - 4 PM

SUNSHINE LADY

Please inform Karen if you know of someone who is hospitalized, recovering, bereaved, or in some way in need of Sunshine.

Karen Bennett 890-3773