

## Aura Hall Celebrates its Centennial

by Liisa Silander

This year FAHS's neighbors in Voluntown—home to eastern Connecticut's other Finn hall—are celebrating Aura Hall's 100th anniversary with a series of events to honor the people and traditions that have shaped us over the past century. And unsurprisingly, many of these people have been supportive of both halls throughout their respective histories.

In 1923, the group in Voluntown got off the ground when 10 families of Finnish immigrants gathered at the farm of Joel and Hilda Viljanen (aka Williams) to form an agricultural cooperative they called *Aura Seura* (literally, "Plow Association"). Together, these founding members worked to create a better life in their newly adopted country by buying basics such as tools, equipment, seed, fertilizer and grain in bulk and dividing the cost among themselves. They invested in a small building in town to serve as a central store for the co-op, but once roads improved enough to allow for direct deliveries to the members' farms, that building morphed into a "hall" or community center for social activities.

"Now, our board and a few other core members have planned Aura's 100th anniversary season as a way to reflect on the hall's origins and recognize the deep Finnish roots that still permeate this corner of Connecticut" notes President Tom Rutherford, who has helped lead the organization for the past quarter century.



Continued Page 2

## Finnish Culinary Delights 2023 = *Karjalanpiirakka* 101 by Patti Folsom

Culinary Delights is traditionally one of the more popular events at the Finnish Hall and this year did not disappoint! Co-chair Minna Waters and I decided to do something new and focus on one food item: *Karjalanpiirakkas* (Karelian Pies). We selected the title "*Karjalanpiirakka 101*" for the program after realizing that *Karjalanpiirakkas* are such an iconic food staple in Finland we could teach an entire class about them.

Minna opened the program by greeting the audience members who filled the upstairs hall. She introduced Anita Smiley, who gave an informative slide show on the history of *karjalanpiirakkas* and their popularity in Finland. Anita told us they are eaten as a part of breakfast, lunch, or dinner and are readily available in most grocery stores. She also talked about her experiences with members of her Finland tours who had the opportunity to try their hand at making *karjalanpiirakkas*. The slides she showed of their finished pastries brought quite a few chuckles from audience members. But Anita emphasized, "They may not look pretty, but they're still delicious!"

Also eliciting some good-hearted laughs was Anita's tutorial in how to pronounce *Kar-ya-lan-pii-rak-ka* along with the essential rolling of the R's. She had the audience in stitches as they repeated the word four or five times, but they were pronouncing it perfectly by the end of the lesson.

Minna then took center stage to show how to make the rye dough, rice porridge, and egg butter for her "K-pies," as she likes to call them. And, for something new this year, a table was set up below



Co-Chair Minna Waters  
Photo by Anita Smiley

Continued Page 2

## Aura Hall (continued)

Several typical Finn hall events anchor our 2023 season, including a spring *Tori* on Saturday, May 13, and another one in the fall on Saturday, November 4; a pancake breakfast on Sunday, August 20; and a *Pikkujoulu* party and Finnish Independence Day celebration on Sunday, December 3. In addition, the hall is hosting a *Juhannus* celebration with dancing and music by the Massachusetts Accordion Club on Saturday, June 17, and a chicken BBQ on Saturday, September 16, with lively musical entertainment courtesy of the Quiet Corner Fiddlers.

In fact, great live music will add a festive air to most Aura events this year, thanks to the efforts of longtime Vice President Matti Huhta, one of several supporters of Aura Hall who remains actively involved with FAHS. This year Aura will also celebrate three other aspects of the hall that have been central to its growth and development—namely, our incredible volunteers (with a picnic and program on Saturday, July 15), our appreciation of Finnish craftsmanship (with a visual art/crafts exhibition on Saturday, September 30), and our commitment to old-school Finnish music and food (with a smorgasbord and music by the Massachusetts Accordion Club on Saturday, October 14).

So please join us at as many events as you can this year to salute the collective *sisu* that has helped keep Aura Hall alive with Finnish flavor for a full century. Everyone is welcome and we especially look forward to celebrating with you, our friends from FAHS.

## Tervetuloa!



You can pick up the full schedule of Aura Hall's 100th anniversary events at FAHS; or email [aurahall.ct@gmail.com](mailto:aurahall.ct@gmail.com) to join our mailing list. Aura Hall is located at 53 Lillibridge Avenue in Voluntown, CT.

## Culinary Delights (continued)

the stage with four stations for audience members to try their hand at rolling and crimping dough. When I asked for volunteers, several eager hands shot up. Four participants dashed up to the front table, and FAHS member Joyce Hannula expertly guided them through the process of making their K-pies. Joyce has previous K-pie teaching experience in her hometown of Winchester, MA, and she gave some great tips on rolling the dough into a round shape using the



Joyce Hannula coaching participants. Photo by Anita Smiley.

tapered *pulikka* rolling pin. As a bonus for volunteering, participants were able to keep their *pulikkas*.

At the end of the program, audience members were invited to sample some *karjalanpiirakkas* made in advance by Joyce, Minna, and Patti. Susan Coupe, Katrina Bousquet, and Susan Cloutier assisted with plating and serving. The tickets for the beautiful array of culinary raffle prizes were pulled with the help of President Steve Bousquet and given out to the delighted winners. Many thanks to the FAHS members who so generously donated to the raffle table and to Sharlann Smiley, who sold tickets throughout the program. Additional volunteers who helped with the program, publicity, set up, and cleanup for this program included Aaron Waters, Stan Karro, Susan and Steve Coupe, Katrina and Steve Bousquet.

Also new this year was an exit survey. One of the questions asked audience members what they liked best about the program, and "audience participation" was mentioned several times. We will have to keep that in mind for next year's program. Another question asked for recipes or themes they would like to see in future programs. We received some great responses and we have some ideas to run with for next year. If you have some ideas for next year's Culinary Delights program, or you would like to volunteer to be on the committee, please email me at [rifinn@gmail.com](mailto:rifinn@gmail.com).

Please see page 6 for Culinary Delights recipes.

## News from Finland in English

For news about Finland in English, a good site on the internet is the **Helsinki Times**. This is an online only news site, established in 2007, provided for people from around the world who are interested in Finland.

<https://www.helsinkitimes.fi/>

### Austin Butler as Elvis

The 2022 movie "Elvis" has received rave reviews, especially Oscar nominee Austin Butler, who took on the role of Elvis. Of interest is that Austin Butler is descended from Finns on his mother's side. The family had roots in Alajärvi and Hanko, Finland, with Finnish surnames of Sillanpää and Jaaruela. A family in the United States is Silampa, and there are family roots in Bessemer, MI, and Ogima, WI. His mother's maiden name was Lori Ann Howell (1964-2014). Austin has naturally blond hair and dyed his hair black for the role of Elvis. Of interest is this comment by Elvis' daughter, Lisa Marie Presley, "Absolutely exquisite, Austin Butler channeled and embodied my father's heart and soul beautifully".

### Havis Amanda statue in Helsinki to undergo renovation

A significant change is being undertaken in Helsinki. The tremendously popular 115-year-old Havis Amanda statue, located between the Esplanade Park and the market square/tori, will be receiving a complete renovation, starting in May 2023. Havis Amanda is one of the main attractions in Helsinki, and it's safe to say that everyone who has visited the market square by the harbor has stood and admired the Havis Amanda statue, one of the symbols of Helsinki.

The naked mermaid statue is especially noted for the attention it draws every year on the eve of May Day, "Vappu," April 30. During a gala ceremony at 6 p.m., selected university students climb to the top of the statue, currently done with the aid of a car lift, to place a white student cap on her head. The raucous party draws quite a crowd, complete with drinks in hand and a bit rowdy at times. It has not been determined how this celebration will occur in 2024 since the targeted completion date is August 2024.

Since capping ceremonies over the years have caused stress and damage, renovations will include a permanent system to allow for these ceremonies and maintenance work to continue without stressing the sculpture. The statue will be transferred to a conservation facility for repairs.

### Elections in Finland

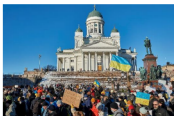
Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin, of the Social Democrat Party (SDP) on Wednesday, April 5, officially submitted her government's resignation to President Sauli Niinistö following the recent elections. As is customary, the outgoing government steps down after an election to make way for a new administration. Marin also announced that she will not seek re-election as chairperson of the Social Democrats in September.

The National Coalition Party, led by Petteri Orpo emerged as the winner of the elections and is now in the process of forming a new government. The formation of a new government in Finland is a crucial process that will determine the country's direction and priorities for the future. With the National Coalition Party and Petteri Orpo leading the efforts to form a new government, the country is anxiously anticipating the coalition that will emerge and the policies they will prioritize.

Continued next page

## Finland approved for NATO membership

Turkey's parliament voted unanimously on March 30 to formally approve Finland's membership to NATO, marking a historic step for the traditionally nonaligned Nordic country. Finland shares an 830-mile border with Russia.



A few months prior to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in October 2021, Finnish popular support for joining the alliance was at 24 percent, according to local polls. By November 2022, it had soared to 78 percent. Every NATO member country had to vote approval of Finland's membership, and Turkey is the last country to do so.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kremlin officials have warned of "consequences" if Finland and Sweden join the alliance, though they have not specified what those consequences may be.

Protestors at a February 2022 rally against [Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) march past the statue of

Tsar [Alexander II](#) in [Senate Square](#) in [Helsinki](#). By [rajatonvimmia](#) /// VJ Group Random Doctors –

We Stand with Ukraine 2022 Helsinki - Finland, CC BY 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=115640225>

## Kerro Tarina - to tell a story

### Writers' Workshops Continue

The next session is scheduled for Saturday, May 6, following the Membership Meeting and Weaving Demonstration. Please contact Susan Cloutier at [susanhinz413@gmail.com](mailto:susanhinz413@gmail.com) for details or questions.

### Riekko

#### Article and photos by Susan Coupe

One of my favorite Finnish items is a white porcelain sauna bird, a *Riekko* (willow ptarmigan), that came from Kittilä, a small town north of the Arctic Circle. She now hangs on a chain above the rocks in my sauna. Unfortunately, they are no longer produced making mine even more treasured. I first saw one at cousin Erja and Ossi's sauna. Ossi grinned as he poured some water in and carefully coaxed her into action. She was given a gentle push. Riekko rocked while the water trickled over hot rocks.



Several Christmases ago I opened a present from my cousins in *Laitila*. Each year they send me a gift that is unique to Finland. This particular time I found a white sauna bird. Soon she was hanging in her new home in our sauna. Watching her rhythmic swaying has a satisfying calming effect adding to relaxation one looks for in sauna. The gentle steam lulls me into a mental state where I can feel the tensions of the day slowly fade away. It is the opposite end of the spectrum from the big scoop of water hastily thrown on the rocks producing a blast of steam.

The sauna bird design had to be created by a woman. I cannot imagine any male Finn settling for a slow steam, especially in the company of fellow Finns. Who will be the last man sitting?

Ida Häkklä's Surprise  
by Susan Cloutier

My cousin, Jenny Dillman, and I found ourselves bouncing around in the backseat of my grandmother's red and white Plymouth during the late 1950s. We stood up, sat down, rolled to the left door, and then tossed ourselves to the right side of the car. This was the backseat freedom before seat belts were installed.

The driver, my grandmother, Jenny Rautio, carted us around the countryside visiting her friends for afternoon coffee. Sometimes Jenny and I played tag outside, looked for hidden forts in trees, searched the living room for a glass-covered candy dish, and even played in a dark, wet culvert listening for cars to pass over us. Nanny focused on her favorite Canterbury destinations: a house with a side porch on Barstow Road, a pink house on Old Plainfield Road, and my favorite: a chicken farm with a pond on Buck Hill Road.

The house on Buck Hill introduced me to my favorite dream dessert: Ida Häkklä's strawberry shortcake. Dismissing the china, ignoring the steaming coffee and sugar cubes, I would gaze at the towering masterpiece at the center of the table. I sat just inches away from the mound of puffy, whipped cream topped with dark, ripe strawberries. Anita Smiley's mother's long knife smoothly sliced through those sponge layers revealing the red juice and inches of whipped cream. When she placed a slice of cake on my plate, my body lurched forward; I was automatically drawn to the summertime sweetness. I was lucky to be sitting at the table like an adult, drinking coffee and listening to Finnish words (which I did not understand), but in my heart, I wanted to be a child who plunged her face into Mrs. Häkklä's Finnish surprise.



FINNISH CREAM CAKE  
by Anita Smiley

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 c. cake flour                    | 1 c. sugar            |
| 1 tsp. baking powder               | 3 large eggs (2/3 c.) |
| 1/4 tsp. salt                      | 1/3 c. hot water      |
| 1 tsp. vanilla (or orange) extract |                       |

Prepare a 15 1/2 by 10 1/2-inch jelly roll pan. Grease the pan and then line the bottom with aluminum foil or baking paper. Preheat oven to 375°.

Sift together the dry ingredients and set aside. In a small mixer bowl, beat eggs until thick and lemon colored. Gradually add sugar, beating after each addition. Transfer to a slightly larger bowl. Blend in, at low speed, hot water, a tablespoon at a time. Add vanilla. Slowly mix in dry ingredients, on low speed, just until batter is smooth.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake (at 375°) until top springs back when lightly touched (12-15 min).

Loosen the edges and turn upside down on a baking rack or on a piece of baking paper sprinkled with confectioners' sugar. Carefully remove the foil or paper from the cake. Prepare a second cake in the same way and let both cakes cool. (For a smaller cake, cut the first cake in half and make two layers. Use half the amount of cream and berries.)

Whip one pint of heavy cream, with confectioners' sugar and a bit of vanilla for flavor and sweetening, until of spreading consistency. Have two containers of frozen strawberries thawed and at room temperature. Fresh strawberries or other berries can be used or a combination.

Place the first cake on your serving dish. Poke holes with a fork. Spread a container of thawed strawberries on the cake, including the juices. Spread whipped cream over the berries. Place the second cake on top and again poke holes with a fork. Spread a second container of strawberries on top and again cover with whipped cream. Place in the refrigerator for a while to let the juices penetrate the cake.

This recipe is one which I got from my mother, Ida Häkklä; and I use the same recipe for jelly rolls and upside-down cake. For the upside-down cake, I heat the juice from a can of pineapple slices in a cast-iron skillet and add one cup of brown sugar, stirring until the sugar melts. Cook until it forms a syrup (about 5 minutes). Cool and then arrange the pineapple slices and cherries. While the fruit cools, mix the batter. Pour the batter over the fruit and bake at 350 degrees for about 40 minutes or until a tester inserted comes out clean.

## Karjalanpiirakka - Finnish Karelian Pies

Makes 22 individual pies

Make the Rice Porridge

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups of rice for porridge (puuroonriisi)
- 5 1/3 cups of milk (whole milk, laismailo)
- 2 1/4 cups of water
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 Tbsp butter



- Put the water in a pan. When it boils, add rice, stir once or twice and leave it to cook until all the water is absorbed.
- Add milk & cook it for 30-40 minutes, occasionally stirring.
- When it is fully cooked, add salt & butter and stir it well.
- Transfer the cooked porridge into a bowl and leave it to cool.

Make the Rye Dough

Ingredients

- 1 3/4 cups of rye flour (ruisajauho)
- 1/2 cup of whole wheat flour
- 1 cup of water
- 1 tsp salt

- Preheat the oven to 425F - 450F.
- In a large bowl, mix rye flour, wheat flour & salt.
- Slowly add water & knead dough into a thick paste.
- Generously spread flour onto your work space.
- Put dough on the counter, & roll it into a log. Use extra flour as needed.
- Cut your log into 22 pieces.

Build your Pies (see photos)

- Take one piece (see #1) & roll it into an oval shape, as thin as possible (see #2).
- Put 2 Tbsp of porridge on the rolled piece (see #3) & spread onto the surface of the dough, leaving the edges without porridge (see #4).
- Starting from top end to the bottom, pinch or crimp the edges of the dough (see #5)



Bake Your Pies

- Put your pies on a baking sheet & into the oven.
- Bake them until brown on the surface.
- In the meantime, melt some butter in a pan.
- Once baked, brush the butter all over each pie.
- Put your buttered pies in a dish & cover with a cloth. This will help them soften.
- Leave for approximately 1 hour.



While your karjalanpiirakka are resting...

## Munavoi - Finnish Egg Butter Topping

Serves 2

Ingredients:

- 2 Hard-boiled Eggs
- 2 Tbsp of Butter
- Sea Salt



- Mash peeled hard boiled eggs with butter using a fork until eggs are broken up and mixture is spreadable.
- Add salt & pepper to taste.
- Spread atop your warm karjalanpiirakka
- Garnish with chives or green onion & enjoy!



From left, Randie, President Steven Bousquet and Carolyn.

Photo by Patti Folsom.

### New visitors at the Finnish Hall

Randie and Carolyn Sanford from Nassau, NY, at the pancake breakfast on April 15, 2023. They were traveling to a wedding in Plymouth and stopped by to visit FAHS for the first time. Many of us have come to know Carolyn through numerous FinnFunn weekends. Glad to see you at FAHS.



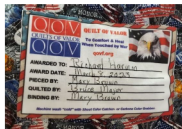
From left, Robert and Richard Harmon.

In a quiet but meaningful ceremony, FAHS members Richard and Robert Harmon were awarded Quilts of Valor on March 8, 2023, by Mary Brown, fellow wood carver, a member of the CT Piece Makers quilting group, and a volunteer with the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The Quilts of Valor Foundation began twenty years ago from a dream Delaware resident Catherine Roberts had about a young man being comforted by a quilt. She had this dream when her son Nat was being deployed to Iraq and the message of the dream was for her to make a quilt because "Quilts = Healing."

So, Catherine made her quilt and took it to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center where she encountered Chaplain John Kallerson. Chaplain Kallerson, whose wife was also a quilter, understood the value of awarding quilts to veterans. He knew they carried a personal message of caring and that he and Catherine needed to continue giving out the hand-made quilts so they could spread the message to veterans everywhere "that someone cares."

The Foundation grew from Catherine Robert's home in Seaford, DE, to volunteer quilters in all 50 states. Over 340,000 quilts have been awarded since 2003. Each quilt takes about 10 yards of fabric and is made by a team. One quilter cuts the fabric and sews the pieces together to form the quilt top. Another volunteer quilts the top by hand or by use of a "longarm" quilting machine. The final volunteer sews the binding.



Mary Brown, who has been carving with the FAHS wood carving group off and on for a number of years, nominated Richard and Robert as recipients of the Quilts of Valor award. Richard, a Marine veteran, received a patriotic-themed quilt. Robert, an Air Force veteran, received a travel-themed quilt. Mary chose the fabric for their quilts and sewed the binding on each one.

On the day of the award ceremony Mary was assisted by fellow wood carver John Harris, an Army veteran and also a previous Quilts of Valor recipient. As Mary and John draped each brother with their quilt, Mary proclaimed, "Thank you for your service, sacrifice, and valor."

You can find more information about the Quilts of Valor Foundation at <https://www.qovf.org>.



Richard Harmon (center) receiving Tribute Quilt from John Harris and Mary Brown.



Robert Harmon shows off his Tribute Quilt.

## Those comforted as of March 31, 2023:

Last Month – 2959  
Year to Date – 7,304  
Lifetime Total – 343,365

From the QOV website

### Required well testing

Thank you to Trustee Stan Karro for coordinating the required annual testing of the well at the Finn Hall which involves some preparation, treatment, and coordination with the Health Department. We received the report on March 20, 2023, that the well passed testing and is cleared for use until March 2024.

### Landscaping

FAHS membership gives a huge shout out to Katrina and Steven Bousquet and the Lawn Science/American Landscape crew for recent work at the Hall. The Barbeque pit has been rebuilt next to the outdoor stage, leveled and is ready to go for the upcoming Chicken BBQ on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The crew made some landscaping changes to the driveway for improved visibility and refreshed the mulch on the beds.



### Window and railing repair/fundraiser

President Steven Bousquet is negotiating with contractors to replace windows and repair the window frames, some of which are in total disrepair and in need of renovation. Fundraising has been successful and the project should be starting this spring. The Board is discussing how to maintain the historical designation of the hall.

FAHS recently received guidance from Rachel Carley, the author and consultant who drafted the Connecticut Finnish Immigrant document supported by a grant from the state of CT. This publication focused on Eastern Connecticut. She reminded FAHS that we are in the Registered Historic Village District which makes us eligible for grants from the State Historic Preservation Office. She suggests that we contact a circuit rider from Preservation Connecticut which is a free service. Rachel recommends matching the original windows if possible. We need to consult with this organization for both windows and canopy replacement to allow us access to potential matching grant funds.

### Front door Canopy

Recent contact with a member who is a retired engineer may be an excellent option for the canopy project for construction and leadership.

### Heating Ducts

Hall heating duct vent controls need repair or modifications. A mild winter and careful member monitoring of heat has resulted in less consumption than prior winters, but the expense may be similar due to the increased cost of fuel.

### Sauna Stove

The sauna stove has been cleaned and restored, just in time for spring and summer events!





## Expanding Content

The Newsletter Committee has sprung into spring with new members and thoughtful conversation about adding content, including day-to-day news and happenings in Finland. In this issue of FinnConn, Anita Smiley's article features content about culture, entertainment, and politics. Is there an aspect of *Finland in the news* about which you would like to write? As an example, my husband keeps an eye on various Finnish race car drivers. Chances are, if you have an interest in a topic, others will too! Submissions of short articles that are 250-500 words in length. If you have an idea for a longer piece, please reach out. We would discuss your idea and word count with you at that time.

## Refining Guidelines

We are working toward a more standardized format which uses APA style guidelines but also recognizing that on occasion we will make decisions about font size and such to meet desired page limits. With volunteers leading the publication, you can expect that we will be perfectly imperfect, but also know that we are giving our best efforts to create a publication that reflects the mission of FAHS, which is to inform readers of our wonderful cultural events and stimulate interest in all things Finnish.

## Letters to the Editor

The Newsletter Committee members are sincerely interested in your feedback, comments, opinions, suggestions, reactions, thoughts, ideas, (well, you get the idea that we value hearing from FinnConn readers). Please contact Kay Gruder ([kay.gruder@gmail.com](mailto:kay.gruder@gmail.com)) or Ellen Buffington ([ellenmbuffington@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmbuffington@gmail.com)).

## New Software - Email Communication

You may have noticed member emails arriving in Constant Contact, a communication platform often used for marketing. It allows for a more engaging experience than a text-only email, in sharing news and updates about our local events. The template format supports the inclusion of photos and provides information to help us gauge if we are effectively reaching our membership.

## Welcome and Thank You

Welcome to John Warn and Karen Lovequist, our newest committee members. Kiitos to all of our writers, photographers, proofreaders, production organizers, etc. Our quarterly newsletter endeavor becomes a special publication because of each of you!

*Hyvää Äitienpäivää - Happy Mother's Day!*

May 14, 2023

Enjoy a lovely Mother's Day concert in Finnish with English subtitles here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRQoTqa4cu8>

## Pannukakku Breakfast

by Susan Coupe

Some came for the *pannukakku*. Some came for the *pulla*. Some even came for the oatmeal. Some met family. Some met friends. All left with full bellies. This breakfast was declared a successful event. So many newcomers enjoyed a hearty breakfast and then toured the museum currently being renovated.

Our younger FAHS family members demonstrated to our guests their community spirit! How fortunate we are to have this vibrant group to ensure our mission will continue. Many thanks to all our volunteers. We are grateful to Hillandale Farms, Stan Karro and Ellen & Don Buffington for their generous donations.

This event could not take place without those who helped with preparations, pulla baking, clean-up, cooking and serving. Once again, our volunteers ranged in ages from 9 to 90+. You are never too old or too young to serve your community. There is a place for everyone. It does take a village.



Youngest breakfast attendee Faye Folsom enjoys her oatmeal.  
Photo by Patti Folsom.



Addison Sasser-Cuff (left) and Iris Brassard.  
Photo by Katrina Engblom Bousquet.



Scott Weeks.  
Photo by Patti Folsom.



Taylor Coupe (left) and Jordan Sands.  
Photo by Katrina Engblom Bousquet.



**Happy Vappu!**

Every year on April 30 and May 1 Finland seems to go crazy as people celebrate May Day.

May 1 is Labour Day in many countries, including Finland. However, the Finns also see it as a chance to celebrate the arrival of spring, and numerous festive student traditions are also associated with the date. In fact, just about everyone gets in on the action – May Day and the preceding evening represent the biggest party of the year.

<https://finland.fi/life-society/finland-shows-carnival-colours-on-may-day/>

**Suurella arvostuksella, kiitos paljon**  
**With great appreciation, thank you so much**  
by Katrina Engblom Bousquet and Ellen Levonius Buffington, Co-Corresponding Secretaries

### **Monetary Donations**

A total of \$5680 was received from January – March 2023, donated to the following funds:

- In Memory of Ilma Tikkanen, George Sipila, and Anne Kallio Long
- The Scholarship Fund
- The Window/Railing Fundraiser

Pearl & Woods McCahill of Lake Placid, NY  
Rita & Edward Kelley of Dayville, CT  
Anita Smiley of Preston, CT  
Carolyn & Jeffery Otto of Brooklyn, CT  
Anita Smiley of Preston, CT  
Lynne Simpanen of Spofford, NH

Mike & Fran Kotowski of Canterbury, CT  
Karen Lovequist of New Fairfield, CT  
Mary Levitz of Jackson, WY  
Nancy West of Mystic, CT  
June Leiss of Canterbury, CT  
Janet Laws Jew of Fulton, MD

### **Collections Management Committee Donations**

Box of books and CDs from Joyce and Lloyd Hannula     Marimekko dress belonging to Anita Smiley's sister (on loan)

### **Canterbury Friends Donate to FAHS**

by Ellen Levonius Buffington

In the spring of 2023, two childhood girlfriends, both of Finnish descent and both raised in Canterbury, met for lunch at a St. Augustine, Florida, restaurant. They had remained close friends throughout grammar school, high school, and participated in local 4-H clubs, went to 4-H camp and were active in the 4-H Senior Service group. Through the years, they kept in touch from their homes in Colorado and Maryland.



The two friends, Janet Laws Jew and Ellen Levonius Buffington, picked up their conversation as if they had seen each other just last week...and started talking about family, growing up in Canterbury and being Finnish. Ellen told Janet that she was a remote member of the Finnish American Heritage Society (FAHS) board and shared some of the struggles the organization was experiencing with maintaining an almost-100-year-old building. FAHS had recently begun a Fundraising Campaign to replace Hall windows and handicapped entrance ramp, both badly in need of repair. Janet was interested in contributing because of her connection to the Canterbury Finnish community, and the pair agreed to both contribute to the fundraising effort in memory of their maternal grandparents and parents.

FAHS has received donations from Janet, in memory of her grandparents, Hilja Amanda Pihkakoski Lehti and Taito Jalmar Lehti, and parents: Ingrid Elizabeth Lehti Laws and Robert Vernon Laws. And from Ellen in memory of her grandparents: Edward Sthore and Kathrina Lehtinen Sthore and parents: Elma Ingeborg Sthore Levonius and Charles Kalle Levonius.

It is the wish of these childhood friends, Janet and Ellen, both proud of their Finnish heritage, that their contributions will help preserve the Canterbury Finnish Hall for the next one hundred years so the FAHS volunteers can continue to preserve, celebrate and teach others in the community about the Finnish experience and contribution to American life.

## Member News & Milestones

### Congratulations – Onnea

To Lisa Joseph of Canterbury, CT, on her March 2023 election to the position of FAHS Recording Secretary. To learn more about Lisa, please see the Spring 2022 edition of FinnConn at [www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org) where she was the subject of the new member highlight. Thank you for volunteering, Lisa.

### Get Well Wishes – Pikaista Paranemista

### Sympathies – Otamme Osaa

George W. Sipila Celebration of Life – Saturday, May 20, 2023 beginning at 2:00 p.m. June Norcross Webster Scout Reservation, 231 Ashford Road, Ashford, CT 06278

### Submitting Member News & Milestones

If you would like to have any “well wishes, condolences, or congratulations” included in our upcoming newsletter, please email FAHS VP, Minna Waters at [minna.waters@gmail.com](mailto:minna.waters@gmail.com) by July 10, 2023. Please put “News and Milestones” in the subject line. *Paljon Kiitoksia/Many Thanks, Minna.*

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### New York Researcher Visits FAHS Archives

by Patti Folsom

Janna Kyllästinen, a documentary filmmaker from New York City and Helsinki, visited the FAHS archives on Tuesday, April 11. Janna is working on a podcast about the first cooperative apartment buildings in the United States, built by the Finns in the early 1900's in the Sunset Park area of Brooklyn, NY. She is also gathering ideas for a documentary film, possibly about Finnish Halls in the United States.

Janna was not familiar with FAHS, but Robert Saasto, who was instrumental in the sale of Brooklyn's Imatra Hall in the late 1990's, told her that our archives contain all the old Imatra records. Janna contacted us via email and we were able to arrange a visit to FAHS to coincide when Janna and her husband, Daniel Salemi, were visiting family in Rhode Island over the Easter weekend.

Thanks to technology, Janna and Daniel were able to make digital copies of numerous CDs and photograph many pages of documents for Janna's research. Janna is hoping to return to FAHS and continue delving into the Imatra records.

If you or anyone in your family have information on the early years of the cooperative apartments in Brooklyn that you would like to share with Janna, please contact me at [RIFinn@gmail.com](mailto:RIFinn@gmail.com)



Janna Kyllästinen (left) with Bob and MaryEllen Harmon. Photo by Patti Folsom.

## **Finnish American Heritage Society Scholarship Application Procedure and Form 2023**

The Finnish American Heritage Society Scholarship Fund was started in November, 2000. Since then, we have awarded forty scholarships to students who are motivated to support the mission (purpose) of FAHS. The primary purpose of the Scholarship is to perpetuate Finnish-American heritage through support of relevant educational initiatives. These can be related to, but not limited to music, the arts, health, education, the environment, and architecture or engineering.

The Scholarship Committee does not discriminate based on age, gender, ethnicity, nationality, belief, or any other conditions. Scholarships will continue to be awarded annually. We greatly appreciate ongoing donations to this important fund, to ensure it will continue "in perpetuity." Our current endowment balance is over \$20,000. The committee invites candidates to apply, with the deadline of June 30, 2023. The awards are presented in the fall. Members and their families are eligible.

Anyone who has been awarded a scholarship is asked to wait at least a year before re-applying, to give others a turn. We have three awards: The General Scholarship, the Korsu Athletic Scholarship, and the Karla Tate Creative Scholarship. The procedure for application is on this form.

**From the Finnish American Heritage Society By-Laws as found on our website ([www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org))**

### **Article II. Purpose**

1. The Finnish American Heritage Society, Inc. is a non-profit, non-partisan heritage organization founded in 1987. The purpose of the Society is to encourage members and others from the community in learning about, collecting, preserving, and enjoying the Finnish-American traditions, customs, history, and cultural heritage. The society desires to promote better awareness and appreciation of Finnish contributions to American life, past and present, as well as Finnish contributions to the world.

**To Scholarship Applicants:**

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship and have questions, please email Finnish American Heritage Society at [info@fahs-ct.org](mailto:info@fahs-ct.org) and include your contact information.

We encourage eligible candidates to apply for support from the Finnish American Heritage Society. Wishing you all a healthy, peaceful year in 2023!

Warmly,  
Scholarship Committee 2023

***Please mail completed application materials to Finnish American Heritage Society  
Scholarship, P.O. Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331.***



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The Finnish American Heritage Society, Inc.

Is a non-profit organization established in 1987 to preserve and promote Finnish-American heritage. Membership is open to all who are interested in the purpose of the organization.

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 252, Canterbury, CT 06331

**Street address:** Finnish Hall, 76 North Canterbury Road, Canterbury

**Phone Number:** (860) 546-6671 **Email address:** [info@fahs-ct.org](mailto:info@fahs-ct.org)

**World Wide Web address:** [www.fahs-ct.org](http://www.fahs-ct.org)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com> and search for Finnish American Heritage Society, Canterbury

**On Facebook at:** [www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct](http://www.facebook.com/fahscanterburyct)

## FINNISH CONNECTION

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### FAHS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Collection of materials and proofreading: Kay Gruder, Patti Folsom, Anita Smiley, Jackie Harjula, Ellen Buffington and Karen Lovequist.  
Members' News and Milestones: Minna Waters

## Welcome New Members!

Frances Miller - Port Orchard, Washington  
Kidd, Aimeé, Alex and Ethan Buffington,  
St. Augustine, Florida  
Carl, Nyla, Jackson and Finny Buffington,  
Severance, Colorado  
New Members are **ALWAYS** welcome!  
Membership coupon is enclosed.

<b>President</b>	Steven Bousquet	860-608-8366
<b>Vice President</b>	Minna Waters	251-454-1614
<b>Treasurer</b>	Jobina Miller	860-377-0789
<b>Secretary</b>	Lisa Joseph	860-546-9831
<b>Co-Correspondence</b>	Katrina Bousquet	860-608-2653
	Ellen Buffington	970-576-8360
<b>Membership</b>	Aaron Waters	251-454-2494

## Coming Events at a Glance

May – October	Museum Open, Wednesdays and 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Saturdays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 6	Coffee Social 1:00 p.m. Membership Meeting (Hybrid) 1:30 p.m. Followed by Weaving Display & Writers' Workshop
Saturday, May 13	Chicken BBQ (take-out) 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, May 28	Memorial Service for Valentine "Val" Galasyn 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 10	CT Open House/Museum Tours Sampling Finnish Food 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 24	Membership Meeting (Hybrid) 3:00 p.m. Juhannus Celebration 4:00 p.m.
Friday, June 30	Scholarship Application Due
Saturday, July 22	Member Social/Family Day Potluck/Games/Museum Tours 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.